



Date: December 13, 2022

To: Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, and Accreditation Liaison Officers of ACCJC Member Institutions or Other Interested Parties

From: Mac Powell, President MP

Subject: Standards Review Update

Standards Update and Next Steps

ACCJC Staff and the Standards Review Leadership Team are sharing with the field the current 2024 Draft Accreditation Standards that will be presented to the Commission for first reading at the January Commission Meeting.

To date, ACCJC has received comments through the comment form on the ACCJC website through in-person and virtual Town Hall listening sessions conducted throughout the region. The comments have been extremely helpful. ACCJC Staff and the Standards Review Leadership Team will continue to refine the Standards and the checklists that will support the work of our institutions.

The documents shared below include the Draft 2024 Accreditation Standards and the currently proposed review criteria. A “redline” (i.e., tracked changes) version of each document is also included to help share the iterative nature of the process and the changes made since the initial

on Commission direction and continued community input, and we invite you to submit your feedback via the comment form on our website. We anticipate a second reading and adoption by the Commission at its June 2023 meeting.

### Accreditation Review Cycle

In addition to the Accreditation Standards themselves, in a recent meeting with stakeholders, a member CEO asked if ACCJC had considered moving to a 10-year review cycle. As you may know, a 7-year cycle length is specific to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and ACCJC. Most other accreditors have moved to longer periods with interim reports and monitoring. After consulting with the ACCJC Staff, the Standards Review Leadership Team, and the Executive Committee of the Commission, we are recommending to the Commission that the ACCJC cycle of accreditation be extended to 8 years, leaving the Midterm report where it is in the cycle, and providing institutions another year between that report and the submission of their ISER. The Annual Report and Annual Fiscal Report would also remain in place as tools of ongoing monitoring, and the Quality Focus Essay would be eliminated for institutions adopting the 2024 Accreditation Standards.

### Proposed Implementation

ACCJC Staff and the Standards Review Leadership Team are recommending a "year two" period beginning immediately upon the 2024 Accreditation Standard's adoption, during which institutions can select the 2014 or 2024 Accreditation Standards to use in the development of their ISER and evaluation by peers and the Commission. Institutions that choose to pilot the 2024 Accreditation Standards will be immediately placed on the proposed 8-year cycle. In order to balance out the seasonal work of the Commission, institutions whose last review was under the 2014 Standards and whose next review is scheduled to take place after 2025 could be assigned a new extended review date based upon criteria established after the pilot institutions have been identified.

On behalf of everyone on the ACCJC Staff, I want to thank you for your support of the peer review process.