

## California Community Colleges Chief Executive Officers Accreditation Reform Timeline 2009-2017

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and CEO Board (CEOCCC) Activities	
2009-2010	<b>CCCCO Accreditation Task Force 1.0*</b> convened by Jack Scott, Chancellor Jan 2010 – Memo with 7 recommendations presented to ACCJC
2010-2012	<b>Numerous CEO Board discussions</b> regarding concerns about accreditation and ACCJC's high rates of sanctions and lack of transparency, collegiality, and consistency
2013	<b>CCCCO Accreditation Task Force 2.0*</b> convened by Brice Harris, Chancellor Work inconclusive; report not released
March 2014	<b>2 Joint CEO/ACCJC Meetings</b> - Northern (Los Rios CCD)/Southern (West Los Angeles College) 40 CEOs met with Commissioners Amador, Rodriguez, Gornick and President Beno to discuss concerns and recommendations.
April 2014	<b>CEO Letter to ACCJC</b> re: City College of San Francisco, urging two-year accreditation extension, with 76 CEO signatures
June 2014	<b>CEO letter to ACCJC Commission</b> outlining 10 recommendations in 3 major areas of concern: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. collaboration and communication</li> <li>2. professional development (improve institution/chair/team training)</li> <li>3. reaffirmation/accreditation (improve processes/shift from sanction to prevention)</li> </ol>
January 2015	<b>CCCCO Board of Governors (BOG) Action:</b> Revised Title V regulations to remove specific mention of ACCJC [NOTE: CA Ed Code requires BOG to define accreditation conditions for colleges to receive state funding. Title V regulations require each college to be accredited by an accreditor recognized by US Secretary of ED, that is recommended by State Chancellor and approved by BOG]
2015	<b>CCCCO Accreditation Task Force 3.0*</b> convened by Brice Harris, Chancellor Meetings beginning January 2015, reviewed broad research, constituent feedback, prior reports. August 2015 Report: <a href="#">CCCCO Task Force on Accreditation</a> included crosswalk of recommendations to ACCJC from 2009-2014, ACCJC actions 2005-2015, ideal accreditor attributes, and recommended establishing a new accrediting model for California community colleges.
November 2015	<b>CCCCO Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting:</b> Agenda Item: <a href="#">Accreditation Task Force Report</a> <b>BOG Action:</b> BOG accepted Task Force recommendations and passed the following resolution: <i>"The current structure of ACCJC, along with its lack of credibility as perceived by its peers and the public, no longer meet the current and anticipated needs of California community colleges."</i>  BOG directed system Chancellor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Share the report with USDE for review of ACCJC's recognition status</li> <li>▪ Work through the system's consultation process to bring to BOG March 2016 meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A recommendation for action to establish a new model for an accrediting agency</li> <li>2. An implementation plan, along with timeline.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
December 2015 – February 2016	<b>CCCCO Accreditation Implementation Task Force 4.0*</b> (expanded membership of TF3.0 with additional CEOs, trustees) convened by Brice Harris, Chancellor Meeting w/ACCJC staff, Commissioners to discuss Task Force report, BOG actions, and next steps. Meeting w/WASC Senior Commission staff, board members regarding options for collaboration. Prepared draft plan for CCCCCO Consultation Council review.  <b>CEO Board committed</b> to a taking a stronger role in accreditation focused on what colleges need in an accreditor to meet needs of colleges, students, communities, and the workforce, with four goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address changing reality of higher education</li> <li>▪ Respect our culture of collegial consultation</li> <li>▪ Encourage risk-taking and innovation</li> <li>▪ Drive change through collaboration and respect</li> </ul>

\*Task forces included representatives from statewide academic senate, chief executive officers, chief instructional officers, chief student services officers, organized labor, boards of trustees, state chancellor's office

<p>March 14 -20, 2016</p>	<p><b>Statewide CEO Symposium (Yosemite)</b></p> <p>More than 80 CEOs participated in 3-hour session on accreditation, focused on the history and role of CEOs in accreditation, review of Task Force 3.0 report, and future of accreditation for the region. Following small and full-group discussions, participants responded to the following survey:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accreditation Feedback Form</b></p> <p><i>It is time for the CEOs to come together to lead this effort.</i></p> <p><i>Please check the option you prefer. If neither appeals to you, write your own Option 3. If you choose Options 1 or 2, but desire to change the language, please insert your changes.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Option 1</u></b></p> <p><i>I believe that the current accreditor for California community colleges, ACCJC, is doing an effective job and represents the appropriate model of accreditation for our colleges moving forward. ACCJC is on the right track, and has implemented effective reforms in response to challenges and changes.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Option 2</u></b></p> <p><i>I believe that there should be fundamental changes made to our accreditation processes and structures. During any exploration of change, all colleges must maintain their current status, terms, and cycle for accreditation with the ACCJC. A parallel approach should be followed which includes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>making improvements in the existing processes and culture of ACCJC, and</i></li> <li>▪ <i>at the same time, exploring alternative structures for a regional accreditor, which will take many years to develop.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>To pursue changes, the member organizations should immediately form two representative planning groups to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>develop and recommend improvements regarding the ACCJC, and</i></li> <li>▪ <i>facilitate communication leading to the long-range goal of California’s community colleges participating in a structure for regional accreditation that aligns all segments of higher education.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>These two planning groups should include representatives from the California community colleges, the University of Hawaii community colleges, the Western Pacific community colleges and the ACCJC, and, where appropriate, other regional accreditors.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Option 3 (enter your own option, if desired)</u></b></p> <p>Following the meeting, the survey was also emailed to all CEOs in the state who were unable to attend, inviting them to respond.</p> <p><b>March 20 - results distributed to all CEOs:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># Participants</th> <th>Support Option 1: No change</th> <th>Support Option 2: 2-prong change</th> <th>Support Option 3: Other change</th> <th>None Selected</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>99</td> <td>5</td> <td>78</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Of the overall 136 California community college CEOs, 99 (73%) responded to the survey. 89% opted for change (Option 2/3); 5% opted for no change (Option 1).</p>	# Participants	Support Option 1: No change	Support Option 2: 2-prong change	Support Option 3: Other change	None Selected	99	5	78	10	6
# Participants	Support Option 1: No change	Support Option 2: 2-prong change	Support Option 3: Other change	None Selected							
99	5	78	10	6							
<p>March 2016</p>	<p><b>CEO Board (CCCEO) Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Action Taken:</b> CEO Board established two CEO Workgroups (w/representatives from 11 CA regions):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Workgroup I:</b> Improving ACCJC Structure, Function, and Relations</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Workgroup II:</b> Western Region Higher Education Accrediting Model Long-Range</p>										
<p>March 21, 2016</p>	<p><b>CCCCO Board of Governors (BOG) Action Item</b> <a href="#">New Model of Accreditation for CCCs</a></p> <p>BOG accepted the recommendation and directed the system Chancellor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify ACCJC of BOG support for CEOCCC plan</li> <li>• Participate with CEOs in coordinating 2 workgroups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recommend immediate changes to improve existing processes and culture of ACCJC</li> <li>2. Pursue a model for regional accreditation that aligns all segments of higher education in the Western region.</li> </ol> </li> <li>▪ Report back to BOG beginning July 2016</li> </ul>										

**WORKGROUP I: Improving ACCJC Structure, Function, and Relations**  
**WORKGROUP II: Western Region Higher Education Accrediting Model**

February 9, 2016	<b>Workgroup I Representatives from five Areas of Focus meeting with ACCJC Commissioners</b> Four hour meeting with members of the ACCJC Policy Committee and Planning and Evaluation committee to monitor implementation of WGI recommendations.
March 18, 2016	<b>ACCJC Commission Development Workshop</b> , Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, CA CEOs Brian King, Helen Benjamin meeting with ACCJC President Beno, and Commissioners Rodriguez, Kinsella, and Christian prior to meeting; discuss proposed membership, goals of WG I, BOG resolution
March - April 2016	<b>Conference calls/emails to establish members, arrange meetings dates/agendas</b> CEO representatives identified by each of 11 CEOCCC region, plus California public/private CEOs WG I includes 2 Academic Senate, 2 ALOs, 2 ACCJC Commissioners WG II includes Hawaii CEO, WSCUC president/commission chair and ACCJC commission vice chair
April 21, 2016	<b>Workgroup I - Southern California meeting</b> - Chaffey College Review of ACCJC By-laws and CEO Areas of Focus discussed
April 27, 2016	<b>Workgroup I - Northern California meeting held at Peralta CCCD</b> Steering Committee with 5 Areas of Focus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Chair &amp; Team Training</b>-Kindred Murrillo (chair/CEO), Debbie DiThomas (CEO), Lori Bennett (ALO)</li> <li>2. <b>Communication</b> - Kevin Walthers (chair/CEO), Victor Jaime (CEO), Kathy Hart (CEO)</li> <li>3. <b>Member Evaluation of the Commission/Staff Leadership Assessment</b> - David Wayne Coon (chair/CEO), David Morse (Academic Senate), Kathryn Jeffery (CEO)</li> <li>4. <b>Process and Structure of College Evaluation Reports, Team Reports and Visits</b> - Michael Claire (chair/CEO), Meredith Randall (ALO), Julie Bruno (Academic Senate)</li> <li>5. <b>Commission Operations</b> - John Weispfenning, (chair/CEO), John Zimmerman (private colleges/ACCJC commission), Marvin Martinez (CEO)</li> </ol>
April 28, 2016	<b>Workgroup I</b> - survey issued to 2015 team chairs, team members and CEOs of institutions recently evaluated/visited
May 1, 2016	<b>Workgroup I</b> - teams begin work on their respective Areas of Focus
May 16, 2016	<b>Workgroup I</b> - draft report due to the Steering Committee
May 19, 2016	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Los Rios CCD</b> 4-hour workshop; 14 members reviewed and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ History and purpose of accreditation</li> <li>▪ National structure and climate of accreditation</li> <li>▪ Reports comparing size, structure, history of sanctions, boards of 7 regional accreditors</li> <li>▪ USDE/Congress demands for more public information on student achievement, completion rates, college costs, loan default rates, colleges “at risk” of accreditation sanction</li> <li>▪ Work plan: (1) How higher education “alignment” works in other commissions, (2) Elements of model higher education accrediting system for the Western Region</li> </ul>
May 23, 2016	<b>Workgroup I</b> - conference calls scheduled to review, discuss and edit the draft report
May 25, 2016	<b>Workgroup I</b> - draft report shared with CEO’s
May - June 2016	<b>Member research</b> and survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Structure and alignment in other regions/commissions in each region.</li> <li>▪ Elements of model higher education accrediting system for Western Region.</li> </ul>
June 1, 2016	<b>Workgroup I</b> - Final Report issued CEO’s
June 8, 2016	<b>ACCJC Commission Meeting Closed Session</b> , San Jose, CA, Doubletree Hotel CEOs Helen Benjamin and Brian King present Workgroup I preliminary report to the ACCJC Commission: <a href="#"><i>Improving ACCJC Structure, Function and Relations</i></a>
June 10, 2016	<b>ACCJC Commission Meeting Open Session</b> WG I Convener Helen Benjamin presents final report overview

July 14, 2016	<p><b>Workgroup II Meeting – Coast CCD</b></p> <p>4-hour workshop with 14 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president/commission chair):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reviewed team research on models of higher education alignment in other regions</li> <li>▪ Identified key elements for a model accrediting system</li> <li>▪ Developed options for alignment of higher education accreditation in the Western Region: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Stronger relationship between ACCJC and WASC Senior (WSCUC)</li> <li>2) Two-year colleges can choose accreditor (ACCJC or WSCUC)</li> <li>3) Single accreditor for Western region</li> <li>4) Relationship with another accreditor (not WSCUC)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
July 18, 2016	<p><b>Update to CCCCO Board of Governors: <a href="#">Accreditation Update</a></b> – CEO Workgroups I &amp; II</p>
July 20, 2016	<p><b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b></p> <p>1.5 hour meeting with 6 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to attend July 14 meeting</p>
August 16, 2016	<p>ACCJC memo from Susan Kazama, Commission Chair and Barbara Beno, President  <a href="#">ACCJC Preliminary Response to the Recommendations of Workgroup I</a></p>
September 9, 2016	<p><b>Workgroup I meeting with ACCJC Commissioners</b> – Oakland Airport Hilton</p>
September 20, 2016	<p><b>Update to CCCCO Board of Governors: <a href="#">Accreditation Update</a></b> CEO Workgroups I &amp; II  Workgroup I update by Helen Benjamin; Workgroup II update by Cindy Miles</p>
October 11, 2016	<p><b>Workgroup I meeting with ACCJC Commissioners</b> – Oakland Airport Hilton</p> <p>Three tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Prioritize recommendations</li> <li>2) Develop survey for Fall 2016 team chairs, team members, CEOs of evaluated/visited colleges</li> <li>3) Review progress by ACCJC on WG1 recommendations</li> </ol>
October 25, 2016	<p><b>Teleconference with US Department of Education (USDE)</b></p> <p>Workgroup II Convener Cindy Miles with Under Secretary Ted Mitchell, Deputy Asst. Secretary Lynn Mahaffie, Senior Policy Advisor Philip Martin</p> <p>USDE is very aware of CCCCEO workgroup activities, applauds focus on alignment</p> <p>It is important to think about the future of our community colleges and ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>What will CCs look like 10-20 years from now? More bachelor's degrees, growth of multiple missions, increased short-term certificates, more focus on post-graduate employment?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>What accreditation system is needed for this future? What peers would you need?</i></li> </ul> <p>Re: Question of process for colleges to seek a change in accreditors if desired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Choice is not USDE's decision; this is accreditor's concern.</li> <li>▪ Accreditor receiving request would examine its existing scope as to how well it aligns with the institution(s) making the request; would apply to USDE for change of scope, if needed.</li> <li>▪ Geography is part of scope, so applying to another region would require accreditor to change its scope [USDE does not take regional view; regions were designated by regional accreditors]</li> <li>▪ Any institution seeking to change accreditor must be in good standing with current accreditor; exception is possible if accepting accreditor submits justification to USDE</li> </ul>
October 28, 2016	<p><b>Workgroup II Meeting – Chabot College</b></p> <p>5 hour workshop; 13 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president and commission chair, ACCJC commission vice chair):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update from ACCJC and Workgroup I</li> <li>▪ Reviewed research comparing relations between community and senior colleges in Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), Higher Learning Commission (HLC), WSCUC</li> <li>▪ Briefing on higher education policy, workings of US Dept. of Education &amp; NACIQI by Jamiene Studley, National Policy Advisor, Beyond 12; Former Deputy Under Secretary, NACIQI Chair, USDE</li> <li>▪ Clarified WSCUC's and ACCJC's interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reviewed four options identified in July regarding model for long-term future of higher education accreditation in the Western region. Members reached unanimous agreement on <b>long-range goal: A SINGLE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR THE WESTERN REGION</b> [Noted that this would take a number of years (up to 10)]</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

November 8, 2016	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b> 1.5 hour meeting with 3 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to attend Oct 28 meeting (plus individual call w/others). All confirmed their agreement with the recommendation.
November 17, 2016	<b>Accreditation Update at Statewide CEO Meeting:</b> CEO Workgroups I & II Workgroup I update by Helen Benjamin; Workgroup II update by Cindy Miles
December 6, 2016	Survey issued to fall 2016 team chairs, team members and CEOs of evaluated/visited
January 17, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – San Diego CCD</b> 4-hour workshop; 14 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president and commission chair, ACCJC commission chair and interim president): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update from ACCJC and Workgroup I</li> <li>▪ Update from Statewide CEO Meeting</li> <li>▪ Draft Framework: Communicating to ACCJC Members and key constituents</li> <li>▪ Develop White Paper – criteria, rationale, timeline, steps to help with discussions, decision-making over coming months</li> </ul>
February 2, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b> 1.5 hour meeting with 5 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to attend Jan 17 meeting.
February 8, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b> 1.5 hour meeting with 2 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to attend Jan 17 meeting
February 18, 2017	<b>Accreditation Panel Presentation – CA Academic Senate Accreditation Institute (Napa)</b> Workgroup I & II Conveners Benjamin, Miles provide update with ACCJC interim CEO at closing session of California Statewide Academic Senate Accreditation Institute
February 24, 2017	<b>Workgroup I Convener Panel Presentation – Anaheim</b> Benjamin provides update with ACCJC Interim CEO at closing session of ACCCA annual meeting
February 26, 2017	<b>Workgroups I and II Presentations at CA CEO Symposium– Solvang</b> 2.5 hour progress report and discussion with CEOs at Annual Symposium regarding progress of workgroups
April 11, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b> 1.0 hour meeting with 16 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president, ACCJC commission chair and interim president): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update from Statewide CEO Symposium, ACCJC Conference, and PPEC</li> <li>▪ Two separate levels of decisions needed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Conceptual</li> <li>2) Implementation</li> </ol> </li> <li>▪ Develop Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, with potential pathways, and communication strategy</li> </ul>
April 17, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b> 1.0 hour meeting with 5 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to participate on April 11 teleconference
April 27, 2017	<b>Workgroup I Meeting – Oakland</b> 4 hour meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organize and coordinate a meeting with ACCJC representatives to check progress on implementation of WG1 recommendations</li> <li>▪ Begin process of writing report on progress for presentation to the CEO Board and BOG</li> </ul>
May 11, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Los Rios CCD</b> 4.5 hour meeting with 13 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president and chair, ACCJC interim president): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and implementation timeline</li> <li>▪ Develop communication strategy</li> </ul>
May 22, 2017	<b>Workgroup I Conference Call</b> 1 hour conference call to review individual reports, finalize June 22 meeting details, finalize draft letter to the Commission, and discuss other business of the workgroup

May 25, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b> 1.5 hour meeting with 5 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to participate on May 11 meeting
June 22, 2017	<b>Workgroups I and II Joint Meeting – West Los Angeles College</b> 3 hour meeting with Commission staff and Commission chair to review progress to date and resolve remaining issues
June 23, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – San Diego Community College District</b> 4 hour meeting with 10 members (California public/private CEOs, WSCUC president, ACCJC commission chair and interim president) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update from Workgroup I and II Joint Meeting</li> <li>▪ Reviewed and revised draft summary report (to include FAQs) and communication strategy</li> </ul>
July 20, 2017	<b>Workgroup II Meeting – Teleconference</b> 1.5 hour meeting with 5 members (California public/private CEOs) unable to participate on June 23 meeting
August – Sept. 2017	<b>Workgroups</b> finalize reports for presentation to CEO Board and Board of Governors*
September 15, 2017	<b>Workgroups I and II</b> make presentations to CEO Board
September 18, 2017	<b>Workgroups I and II</b> make presentations to Board of Governors

\*The Community College League of California (CCLC) and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) have jointly collected a number of documents tracing the history, documentation, and evolution of accreditation reform activities from 2009 to 2017, which are posted on the CCLC website under [Accreditation Resources](#), including a chronology of activities leading to the formation of the two CEO Workgroups, updates on workgroup activities, and links to publications and reports, including the final reports of both Workgroups I & II.