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**Date:** February 10, 2014

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## **Columbia College and MJC's Accreditation Reaffirmed**

MODESTO, CA – Great news for the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) was received this month when both Columbia College and Modesto Junior College (MJC) recently were informed by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges that their accreditation has been reaffirmed. Subsequently, Columbia College has been removed from warning status and Modesto Junior College has been removed from probation status.

YCCD Chancellor Joan Smith noted that she is “proud of the collective efforts by the colleges and they should take a moment to appreciate their efforts.”

MJC President Jill Stearns commented that she was “thrilled that MJC has had the sanction removed and accreditation reaffirmed. The action by the Commission is the formal acknowledgement that MJC fully reflects the statements of quality and standards of the Commission. This action is a result of the collaborative effort of faculty, staff, leadership, and students who joined together with a renewed focus on access and student success.”

President Stearns noted a comment made by the accrediting visiting team chair at the conclusion of their most recent visit, “The evaluation team chair noted, ‘the respect among campus leaders is evident.’ It is a joy and privilege to work with such a dedicated team.”

Columbia College’s new President Dr. Angela Fairchilds remarked that “the news of reaffirmation of accreditation was received with elation at Columbia College. The faculty, staff, and administration have worked diligently to address the recommendations from the evaluation team and make the necessary improvements.”

President Fairchilds added that “I am proud of the commitment and dedication of the college community to sustaining a high level of quality in programs and services for our students

and thank the Commission for verifying that commitment with reaffirmation.”

Both colleges provided evidence and the accrediting teams verified that each college had addressed previous recommendations to the Accrediting Commission’s satisfaction. In essence, all standards have been met or exceeded.

Accreditation is granted to educational institutions certifying to the public that an institution meets or exceeds specific standards of quality. The periodic process of self and peer review requires colleges to examine and provide evidence living up to their commitments to students and the community, and continuously improving.

The standards include a rigorous analysis of the following: Institutional Mission and Effectiveness, Student Learning Programs and Services, Resources, and Leadership and Governance. Accreditation is reaffirmed by the Commission every six years.

**-YCCD-**