

MAR 27 2000

CSU, CHICO

March 20, 2000

Gregory M. Scott, Associate Director
Western Association of Schools & Colleges
985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94501

CHANCELLOR



Dear Dr. Scott:

I was pleased to receive your letter of March 6 and the interim report from Cal State Chico. Their "Progress Toward Reaffirmation in the New Century" reflects some excellent continuing efforts in the advancement of the institution. It confirmed for me the value of the approach taken in the 1996 visit and the report of the visiting team. The framework for continued discussion created in that WASC visitation process fits the institution's needs and planning efforts quite well.

In particular, the institution appears to have made significant progress in becoming a learning centered campus. The faculty requests for Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching funding; the reduction in the need for remediation in math and in English; the revision of promotion and tenure standards to reflect the scholarship of teaching; the broadening emphasis on learning in promotion and tenure deliberations; the development of assessment planning at the course level, departmental level, and the institution level; the ongoing four-year project of assessing student learning outcomes in general education and writing; and the set of freshman learning experiences, all suggest that the institution is focusing properly and achieving success. The focus on information and technology shows that CSU Chico is making good progress.

The enrollment increases, the increases in the entering freshmen grade point averages and the transfer grade point averages, and the increase in freshmen SAT average are all good signs. Since 1995, the ethnic enrolled student component has increased, but this will be a continuing challenge for CSU Chico. The Performance-Based Budgeting system appears to be developing well, and the Balanced Scorecard Initiative appears to be an excellent step forward. It appears that there has been some good recruitment of minority faculty and staff. This is an important feature of the overall diversity program.

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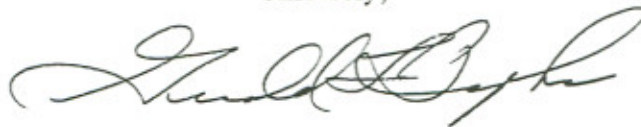
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Gregory M. Scott
March 20, 2000
Page 2

I would say that the CSU Chico campus continues to pursue appropriate directions with purpose and enthusiasm. They seem to mix the California State University overall planning efforts reflected in the Cornerstones Implementation Plan and the Collaborative Management System and balance those planning regimens with their regional needs and emphasis. I think that President Esteban, Provost McNall, and the Cal State Chico community deserve congratulations for a continuing job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald L. Bepko".

Gerald L. Bepko
Chancellor

GLB/pf

bcc: Dr. Manuel A. Esteban, President
California State University -- Chico