



ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

Dear ACCJC Members,

We wanted to provide a brief update regarding the U.S. Department of Education's proposed **Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization (AIM)** regulations.

On September 18, 2026, the [Council of Recognized Accrediting Commissions \(C-RAC\) submitted formal comments to the Department of Education regarding the proposed rule](#). In its comments, C-RAC expressed support for several provisions intended to modernize accreditation, increase flexibility, reduce unnecessary burden, and improve protections and information for students, while also identifying specific areas where additional clarification would benefit institutions and accrediting agencies.

Among other topics, the comments request clarification regarding proposed requirements related to academic freedom, intellectual diversity, cost-benefit analyses, governance, and the implementation of several accreditation-related provisions. C-RAC also reiterated its support for efforts to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, including proposed changes related to substantive change requirements.

ACCJC remains actively engaged in monitoring this rulemaking process and coordinating with our regional and national partners. We will continue to review developments, participate in discussions as appropriate, and share information with member institutions as additional guidance becomes available.

We appreciate the engagement of our member institutions throughout this process and will continue to keep you informed regarding developments that may affect accreditation and higher education policy.

With appreciation,

Mac

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Mac Powell", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mac Powell, MBA, PhD
President

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