Public Disclosure Statement

By: Middle States Commission on Higher Education and Atlantic Cape Community College

This statement has been developed for use in responding to public inquiries, consistent with the Commission’s policy on “Public Communication in the Accrediting Process.” It should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Accreditation Status for Atlantic Cape Community College.

Atlantic Cape Community College has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 1971. The College is a multi-campus, public institution in Mays Landing and Cape May Court House, New Jersey, offering certificates and associate degrees. A full listing of the institution’s additional locations is noted in the Statement of Accreditation Status. A summary of the most recent Commission actions relative to the College’s accreditation follows.

Brief Summary of Recent Commission Actions

At least every ten years, all accredited institutions engage in an 18-24 month period of self-study intended to demonstrate institutional compliance with accreditation standards and to promote institutional improvement. Atlantic Cape Community College completed its self-study and hosted an evaluation team visit in March 2006. Following the on-site visit, an evaluation team report was completed and an institutional response to that report was prepared. These documents were considered by the Committee on Evaluation Reports and by the Commission at their meetings in June 2006.

At its meeting on June 22, 2006, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to warn the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy and to request a monitoring report, due by September 1, 2007, documenting development and progress toward implementation of (1) a comprehensive institutional strategic plan that links long-range planning to decision-making and budgeting processes; and (2) an organized and sustained process for the assessment of institutional effectiveness. A visit may follow submission of the monitoring report.

A Commission places an institution on warning when, in the Commission’s judgment, the institution appears not to be in compliance with the Commission’s standards and/or eligibility requirements. A monitoring report always is requested when an institution is placed on warning, and a special visit may also be directed. The monitoring report is an opportunity for the
institution to provide a substantive, detailed response to the Commission’s concerns. A visit is included if verification of institutional status and progress requires on-site review in addition to document review.

**Current Status and Expected Activities**

Atlantic Cape Community College retains its accredited status while the warning is in effect.

Following submission of the September 1, 2007 monitoring report, the Commission will determine whether a visit to the College by one or more evaluators is appropriate.

In November 2007, the Committee on Follow-Up Activities and Candidate Institutions will review the College’s report (and that of the visiting team, if any) and will submit a recommendation to the Commission at its November meeting. The Commission will act at that time, in accordance with its policy “Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation.”

If, based on the monitoring report (and team report, if any), the Commission determines that Atlantic Cape Community College has made appropriate progress in addressing the cited concerns, the Commission may act to reaffirm the College’s accreditation, thereby removing the warning.

If progress sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards has not been made, the Commission may take further actions as allowed under “Range of Actions.”