



Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE

November 2010

**Baccalaureate Program in Graphic Communication
at the
California Polytechnic State University
Earns National ACCGC Re-Accreditation**

After completing an extensive self-study and hosting a site visit by a three-member team of industry and education experts, the Graphic Communication program at the California Polytechnic State University received national re-accreditation beginning September 1, 2010. This program is among eight, baccalaureate level, graphic communications related programs nationwide to have received this distinction. The seven other programs are at Ferris State University, Florida A&M University, California University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania College of Technology, University of Wisconsin-Stout, New York City College of Technology, and University of Houston. The Graphic Arts Technology associate level program at Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois is currently under accreditation review by ACCGC.

The accrediting agency, **Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc. (ACCGC)**, awarded the academic accreditation. The ACCGC is an independent body professionally supported by leaders in the collegiate educational area and by the management personnel in the graphic communications industry. The ACCGC Council Board of Directors is comprised of 11 educators and eight industry personnel in the graphic communications field and is dedicated to the improvement and recognition of collegiate level curricula in graphic communications. ACCGC is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt body and is supported through industry contributions and educational accreditation fees.

A formal presentation was made and a recognition plaque was given to faculty and administrative representatives from the California Polytechnic State University during the October 3, 2010 annual ACCGC Board of Directors meeting that was held during Graph Expo 2010. The ACCGC annual board meeting is always held at McCormick Place in Chicago during the Graph Expo and Print shows which are the largest graphic communications expositions held annually in the United States.

Harvey Levenson, Department Head of Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Department said, "ACCGC accreditation has further established the credibility of Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Department as an important academic program with a vision for educating future professions and leaders. The university administration respects the views and recommendations of independent bodies such as the ACCGC, and has provided the Graphic Communication Department with resources for growth and development because of its re-accreditation status."

In addition, Linda H. Halisky, Dean, College of Liberal Arts at the California Polytechnic State University stated: "The Graphic Communication program at Cal Poly has been recognized as

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one of the very best in the country for many years. We are gratified that the quite sterling report of the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications again confirms, indeed, underscores this program's wonderful--and well earned--reputation."

A plaque recognizing the six-year re-accreditation was presented to Dr. Levenson during the ACCGC October 3, 2010 Board of Directors meeting. The re-accreditation period is retroactive to September 1, 2010 and continues through August 31, 2016.



Left to Right: Dr. Daniel G. Wilson (team member) Illinois State University; J. Michael Steczak (team chair) Chowan University (NC); Dr. Harvey R. Levenson, California Polytechnic State University; Susan P. Nofi (team member) Heidelberg USA; and Dr. Jerry J. Waite, (ACCGC President), University of Houston (TX).

In their "Visitation Report," the team stated that "The graphic communication program has an important mission, well aligned with the missions of the College of Liberal Arts and California Polytechnic State University. Also, the curricular outcomes of the program are well analyzed and validated, appropriate to the discipline, and provide a framework for the course competencies that support them."

The mission of the ACCGC is to provide viable, credible, and defensible accreditation standards that can be used to promote and encourage sound associate and baccalaureate level education programs in graphic communications. In the accreditation process, the ACCGC strives to stimulate the exchange of ideas between administrative and instructional personnel in academia and within the graphic communications industry.

The ACCGC reviews qualitative and quantitative evidence obtained through an institution's self-study and facts substantiated by a three-member campus visitation team in determining the accreditation status of an institution's graphic communications program. The academic program is

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evaluated in 14 areas: Mission Statements and Curricular Outcomes, Competency Identification and Assessment, Governance/Administration, Financial Support, Equipment and Facilities, Staff Support Services, Curriculum, Instruction and Evaluation, Internships/Practicums/Cooperative Study, Industry Advisory Committee(s), Faculty, Faculty Evaluation, Student Records and Advising, and Graduate Placement and Follow-up.

For more information about the ACCGC, contact Ervin A. Dennis, Managing Director, at ea.dennis@cfu.net or Jerry J. Waite, President, at jwaite@uh.edu. The Council's web-site address is www.accgc.org.

For more information about the California Polytechnic State University, Graphic Communication program, contact Dr. Harvey R. Levenson, Department Chair, at hlevenso@calpoly.edu , (805) 756-6151.