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July 6, 2017

Dr. Justin Guillory
President
Northwest Indian College
2522 Kwina Road
Bellingham, WA 98226

Dear President Guillory:

Justin

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Northwest Indian College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2017 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report. This matter was the subject of correspondence dated July 29, 2014 and February 8, 2010. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission determined that its expectations for Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report have been fulfilled. In addition, the Commission added a new Recommendation to the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report as follows:

Recommendation 6

The Commission recommends that the College regularly update and publish its Campus Safety and Security report on an annual basis in accordance with federal regulations for the Clery Act (Standard 2.D.2).

The Commission requests that the College submit a Special Report by October 16, 2017, addressing the abovementioned newly added Recommendation 6 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report to be reviewed by the Executive Committee at its Fall 2017 meeting. The College is also to submit its *Mission and Core Themes* Report in Spring 2018. Moreover, the Commission requests that the College submit an Ad Hoc Self-Evaluation Report in Spring 2018 to address Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. These should be two separate and distinct reports for Spring 2018. Further, the Commission requests that the College submit an addendum to the College's Spring 2020 Mid-Cycle Report to address Recommendations 1 and 5 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Northwest Indian College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

President Justin Guillory
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However, the Commission determined that the newly added Recommendation 6 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report does not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Northwest Indian College take appropriate action to ensure that the newly added Recommendation 6 of the Spring 2017 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report is addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission commends Northwest Indian College's Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff and students for building an institutional culture that is rooted in a set of core indigenous values and supports engagement in the institutional mission as a tribal college. In addition, the College is to be lauded for diverse and deliberate methods of engagement with students, employees, and community members leading to a system of shared governance within an indigenous framework. The Commission finds noteworthy the development of Bachelor Degree science courses and programs that use contextualized learning to engage students in research and internships, providing students with a strong underpinning in indigenous sciences and a strong personal and academic foundation. Lastly, the Commission applauds the staff and faculty of Northwest Indian College for their focus on holistic student success and commends the College for development and implementation of unique Foundational Requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a rewarding 2017-2018 academic year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations
Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance
Within Specified Period*

cc: Ms. Carole Rave, Vice President for Academics and Student Services
Ms. Kristin Kinley, Chair, Board of Trustees

Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation
Spring 2017
Northwest Indian College
Recommendations
Revised

1. The evaluation committee recommends that all core theme indicators be reviewed and revised as needed to ensure they are valid, meaningful, and effectively measure mission fulfillment and accomplishment of the core theme objectives. The evaluation committee further recommends that the College identify a definition of mission fulfillment that may be used to make determinations of quality, effectiveness, and mission fulfillment (Standards 1.A.2, 1.B.2, 4.A.1, and 5.A.2).
2. The committee recommends that Northwest Indian College regularly review, indicate review dates, and publish all academic, human resources, student, and other policies according to the NWIC Policy Review Calendar, to ensure compliance and currency with NWCCU Standards and applicable regulations. Additionally, the committee recommends that the College develop a policy on intellectual property that is aligned with the Standards (Standard 2.A.17, 2.A.18, and 2.A.29).
3. The committee recommends that the College provide adequate information resources and library services including library orientation for all levels of degree programs and at all instructional sites (Standard 2.E.1 and 2.E.3).
4. The committee recommends that the College define the relationship between auxiliary services - such as the bookstore and Early Learning Center - and general operational funds (Standard 2.F.6).
5. The committee recommends that the College assess the stated learning outcomes for the one-year certificate and associate degrees at the degree/program level, and the general education program at the program level, to ensure that students achieve the identified outcomes and as a basis for continuing improvement of academic degrees and the general education program (Standard 4.A.3 and 4.B.1).
6. The Commission recommends that the College regularly update and publish its Campus Safety and Security report on an annual basis in accordance with federal regulations for the Clery Act (Standard 2.D.2).

Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period Policy

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation or an eligibility requirement, the Commission will immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance within a time period that shall not exceed: (1) twelve months, if the longest program offered by the institution is less than one year in length; (2) eighteen months, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or (3) two years, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least two years in length.

The Commission may extend the period for compliance noted above should it reasonably expect that, based upon the institution's progress toward meeting the Commission's standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement, the institution will come into full compliance within a reasonable timeframe. Should an institution deem that as a result of mitigating circumstances it is not able to comply with the standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement within the specified period of time, the institution may submit a written request to the Commission for additional time to come into compliance with the standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement. The request is to be submitted prior to the time limit for corrective action set forth by the Commission, provide a detailed explanation of the reasons why the institution cannot comply with the standard for accreditation within the designated time period, and demonstrate that the institution is making good progress in meeting the standard for accreditation. Following a review of the request, the Commission will make a determination as to whether the institution has based its request on valid reasons. If the Commission determines that the institution has substantiated good cause for not complying within the specified time period and is making good progress to come into compliance, the Commission will extend the period for achieving compliance and stipulate requirements for continuing oversight of the institution's accreditation during the extension.

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