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July 18, 2013

Dr. Joseph Dunlap
President
North Idaho College
1000 West Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Dear President Dunlap: ^{Joe}

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of North Idaho College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2013 Comprehensive Year Seven Evaluation which was to include an on-site evaluation of Standard Two and also to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report. Congratulations on receiving this recognition.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College include an addendum in its Spring 2016 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission requests that the College address Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report as an updated response to Standard One in its Spring 2014 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report. Further, the Commission requests a Spring 2014 Ad Hoc Report without a visit to address Recommendations 4 and 5 of the Spring 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. Finally, the Commission requests an Ad Hoc Report in Spring 2018 to address Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Spring 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where North Idaho College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. However, the Commission determined that Recommendation 5 of the Spring 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report is an area where North Idaho College 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 North Idaho College take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 5 is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period.

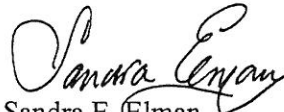
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The Commission commends the employees of the College for their demonstrated commitment, care, and respect for students and their success. In addition, the Commission finds laudable the College's Library and English faculty and members of the SLOA Committee for development of assessment practices related to information literacy that can serve as a model for other outcomes assessment efforts. Moreover, the Commission applauds the Physical Plant leadership and staff for the implementation of environmental sustainability methods that save institutional resources and establish best practices. Further, the Commission finds noteworthy the College's high level of community engagement as reflected in efforts such as fine and performing arts offerings, customized workforce training, local volunteer projects, and summer events and activities. Lastly, the Commission commends the College for the establishment of effective employee professional development and wellness initiatives, including the adoption of staff sabbaticals.

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

Best wishes for a rewarding academic year.

Sincerely,


Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

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

cc: Dr. Karen R. Ruppel, Faculty Coordinator, Student Learning Outcomes, Assessment & Accreditation
✓ Mr. Ken Howard, Board Chair
Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education

Comprehensive Year Seven Evaluation Report
Spring 2013
North Idaho College
Recommendations

1. While evidence of effort is apparent, the evaluation committee recommends that the institution fully engage in integrated, comprehensive planning that offers opportunities for input by appropriate constituencies and is informed by the collection of clearly-defined data used to evaluate mission fulfillment. Such planning should include budget and capital projections that inform resource allocation and support core theme progress. It is also recommended that, through the planning process, the institution ensure the creation of appropriate learning environments for all programs (including those at off-campus locations), wherever offered and however delivered, in order to effectively support student learning (Standards 1.B.2, 2.C.1, 2.D.1, 2.F.2, 2.F.5, and 3.A).
2. The institution has engaged in a comprehensive process to create and revise the college mission, vision, and values statements as well as to define core themes. The evaluation committee recommends that the design of each identified core theme be consistent with the institution's mission, supported by the comprehensive plan, and informed by both clearly defined indicators and the regular collection and analysis of meaningful data (Standard 1.B.1 and 1.B.2).
3. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution continue to refine its process of core theme assessment by collecting and using appropriately-defined data to evaluate the fulfillment of its mission. The institution should regularly revise its assessment processes to ensure they appraise authentic achievements and yield meaningful results that lead to improvement (Standards 3.B.3, 4.A.1, 4.A.6, and 4.B.1).
4. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution employ sufficient qualified personnel to maintain library services support and operations functions; insuring quality, adequacy, utilization, and security of library and information resources and services, including those provided through cooperative arrangements, wherever offered and however delivered. The institution, consistent with its mission and core themes, must provide access to library and information resources with an appropriate level of currency, depth, and breadth to support the institution's mission, core themes, programs, and services (Standard 2.B.1, 2.E.1, and 2.E.4).
5. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution develop, publish widely, and follow an effective and clearly stated transfer-of-credit policy that maintains the integrity of programs while facilitating efficient mobility of students between institutions when completing their educational programs. Such a policy will ensure that adopted admission and placement policies guide student enrollment in courses and programs through an evaluation of prerequisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to assure a reasonable probability of student success (Standard 2.A.14 and 2.A.16).

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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