



December 1, 2021

Dr. Michael Sebaaly, Interim President
North Idaho College
1000 West Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Dear Interim President Sebaaly:

On November 2, 2021, NWCCU received a new complaint and supplemental information (nwccu.app.box.com/folder/151310129293), which alleges new and continuing violations of NWCCU's Eligibility Requirements and Standards of Accreditation by North Idaho College (NIC), including its Board of Trustees.

Review and analysis by NWCCU staff of materials and evidence submitted as part of this new complaint and recent additional and ongoing issues implicate NWCCU Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation pertaining to institutional integrity, human resources, financial resources, and, physical infrastructure. Specifically, the impacts on the Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation listed below require further inquiry of facts and circumstances related to:

- (1) Eligibility Requirement 8 and 9 and Standards 2.D.2 and 2.D.3 relating to the demonstration of high ethical standards in governance, management, and operations, including the NIC Board of Trustees' responsibility to ensure integrity and transparency of its deliberations and actions, ethical treatment of stakeholders and constituents, adherence to statutory requirements and institutional policies, and adherence to conflict of interest policies;
- (2) Eligibility Requirement 12 and Standard 2.F.3 concerning sufficiency of NIC's faculty, staff, and administrators to ensure integrity and continuity of academic programs;
- (3) Eligibility Requirements 19 and 23 and Standards 2.E.1 and 2.E.2 regarding NIC's financial health and sustainability in light of potential risk due to staff and faculty departures, declining student enrollments, and withdrawal of donations; and
- (4) Eligibility Requirement 15 and Standard 2.I.1 providing for maintenance of NIC's physical facilities to ensure a healthy and safe learning and work environment, including adherence to all applicable federal and state and local laws.

Based on NWCCU analysis of alleged facts, NIC's ability to maintain compliance with the United States Department of Education's regulations (www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation-handbook.pdf) and NWCCU's Eligibility Requirements, Standards of Accreditation, and Policies (nwccu.org/accreditation/standards-policies/), and Accreditation Procedures (nwccu.app.box.com/file/717220750446?s=nimzpotmpq9f6ezg95refbkwlco9ofzy) is of concern.



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Therefore, NWCCU has appointed a panel of regional representatives of higher education with expertise and experience to review the college's compliance with NWCCU Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation and to undertake an in-person, onsite inquiry of facts and circumstances related to financial sustainability and student outcomes as a result of recent decisions undertaken at NIC, including by its Board of Trustees.

Most optimally, this site visit should occur as soon as possible, preferably during the week of January 17, 2022, when students, faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees are available to be interviewed. We would appreciate your assigning relevant NIC staff to work with NWCCU staff for logistical support for hosting the visit.

Our expectation is that this onsite review of the situation at NIC will serve to support the college's continued compliance with NWCCU's Eligibility Requirements, Standards for Accreditation, and Policies and Procedures and, as such, ensure fulfillment of the college's mission focused on the success of its students.

We look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible with the name(s) and contact information of the NIC staff assigned to provide logistical support for hosting the visit.

If you have any questions, please contact Vice President Ron Larsen or me.

Sincerely,

NWCCU President

C: Steven Kurtz, Accreditation Liaison Officer