

Statement from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities on Show Cause Visit at North Idaho College

North Idaho College (NIC) located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho has met the post-secondary education needs of the community ever since it was accredited in 1947 by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

Institutional accreditation is voluntary, notwithstanding the assurance of educational quality and eligibility for federal funding it affords. Member institutions agree, on an ongoing basis, to comply with NWCCU Eligibility Requirements, Standards, and Policies, which in turn must comply with United States Department of Education (USDE) regulations. Institutional compliance is the first and most basic step in assuring continued accreditation and maintenance of membership.

In its February 9, 2023 Show Cause letter to NIC, NWCCU stated that the institution must provide a Show Cause report no later than March 31, 2023, in which the college must provide evidence that it has made all necessary improvements and meets NWCCU's Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation, Policies, and applicable federal regulations.

In addition, the Show Cause letter required NIC to host a peer evaluation team for an onsite visit to review the college's progress related to the institutional risks and non-compliance. The purpose of the site visit is to validate the information provided in the institutional Show Cause report and to determine the extent to which recommendations have or have not been satisfied within the context of the identified Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation. The peer evaluation team, comprising representatives from NWCCU member institutions, will be on the NIC campus April 26-27, 2023.

The peer evaluation team will review information provided in NIC's Show Cause report and meet with key constituencies in the NIC community. There will be no exit meeting with the college community.

The site evaluation team will write a report on its findings with a focus on assessing the institution's compliance or non-compliance with the Eligibility Requirements and Standards for Accreditation outlined in NWCCU's Show Cause letter. The institution will be afforded an opportunity to respond to any errors of fact in the peer evaluation team report.

The final peer evaluation report will be considered by NWCCU's Board of Commissioners during its meeting June 20-23, 2023, at which time NIC representatives will be invited to make an appearance and respond to questions.

The Commissioners will then make a decision and take a vote, the outcome of which will be conveyed to NIC within 30 days of the completion of the June 2023 Commission Meeting.