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July 8, 2019

Dr. Jerry Weber  
President  
Bellevue College  
3000 Landerholm Circle SE  
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

Dear President Weber:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 19-21, 2019, concerning the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of Bellevue College. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

### **Accreditation**

- Reaffirm Accreditation

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Bellevue College for:

1. Its commitment to engaging in sustainability practices as a manifestation of its commitment to being responsible stewards of the environment. Of particular note are the following:
  - The funds provided by the Student Environmental Sustainability Fund to install a rain garden, which is located on the grounds of the residence hall. This project ensures that rain water will undergo natural filtration before returning to the rivers or underground aquifers.
  - The commitment to ensure that all new buildings achieve a LEED rating of at least silver.
2. Efforts of the Library Media Center for the following:
  - The excellent instructional programming including human resources dedicated to outreach and support for the baccalaureate programs.
  - Its focus on creating welcoming, inclusive student learning spaces that support a wide range of student activities.
  - The leadership and innovative work in bringing immersive (XR Lab) instruction to students and faculty and its high-quality support for faculty teaching online and hybrid classes.
  - Its ability to reshape instructional practices to better include students accessing information literacy instruction online.

3. Its commitment to development of an environment of utilizing data to inform processes and transparency. The College has established a goal to develop a system in which planning, assessment and linkage to continuous improvement guide all levels of decision making. The leadership team communicated a cohesive vision and commitment to transparency at all levels throughout the organization.
4. The dedication and commitment of the Board of Trustees. The Board is passionate, future-focused and engaged with the College, its students, staff, community.
5. Its dynamic educational outreach, workforce education programs and continuing education offerings. Examples include the Occupational and Life Skills program, housed within economic and workforce development, and the Autism Spectrum Navigators program, housed within academic affairs. The Navigators program for autistic students represents an important educational opportunity for a group that has often been marginalized.

### **Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that Bellevue College:

1. Focus on increasing the breadth and depth of library and information resources to support the baccalaureate programs and that a process is put in place during the curriculum adoption process to ensure that resources are identified and provided for all new classes and programs (Standards 2.E 1-2).
2. Review the formative measures it uses to assess student learning outcomes and develop a summative assessment framework that can be effectively used as evidence to assess mission fulfillment (Standards 2.C.1, 4.A.3, and 5.A.2).
3. Define and disseminate clear communication and data flow of all entities funneling information to the President's Cabinet for decision making (Standard 2.A.1).
4. Review the objectives for its core themes and develop meaningful, assessable and verifiable indicators of achievement, metrics, and benchmarks that form the basis for achievement of core theme objectives and that support improvement by informing planning and decision making. (Standards 1.B.2, 4.A.1, 4.A.6, and 4.B.1).
5. Develop a process that utilizes comprehensive planning to guide and document resource allocation. The process needs to integrate the use of assessment and evaluation to illustrate the review of institutional capacity, and that resource allocation aligns to outcomes of assessment and evaluation and guiding continuous improvement (3.A.4, 4.A.5, 5.B.2).

### **Required Follow-Up**

- Mid-Cycle Review with an addendum Spring 2022
  - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 3: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 5: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability

### **Future Evaluations**

- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with an addendum Spring 2022
  - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 3: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 5: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability

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- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation Spring 2026

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison, Senior Vice President Pamela Goad.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:pg

cc: Dr. Tracy Biga MacLean, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Dr. Ryan L. Thomas, Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Committee  
Chair