



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100  
Redmond, WA 98052-3981  
425 558 4224  
Fax: 425 376 0596  
www.nwccu.org

July 8, 2019

Richard E. Littlebear  
President  
Chief Dull Knife College  
P.O. Box 98  
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear President Littlebear:

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 Chief Dull Knife 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
- Issue a **Warning** on Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report based on Standard 4.A.1, 4.A.3, 4.B.1, and 4.B.2.

### **Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation**

- Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report is *continued* as Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report.

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Chief Dull Knife College for:

- The College's commitment, determination, effort, and success in sustaining and fostering Cheyenne language and culture among the students, throughout the community, and across the country.
- Singularly uniting to honor a common spirit of devotion, loyalty, enthusiasm, respect, and dedication to feeding the hearts and minds of the Chief Dull Knife student.
- Successfully serving multiple patron groups as an academic library, a community library and a regional repository for literature, spoken history, art, and cultural artifacts of the Northern Cheyenne tribe as the Dr. John Woodenlegs Library and under the leadership of the library director and staff.

- Their willingness, resourcefulness, and creativeness in implementing appropriate, fair, and practical solutions to address the non-academic challenges students face as a result of socio-economic disparities and structural inequities.

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

The Commission recommends that Chief Dull Knife College:

4. Engage in ongoing, systematic, integrated, and comprehensive planning that leads to fulfillment of its mission (Standards 3.A and 3.B).

### **Recommendations Out of Compliance**

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Chief Dull Knife College is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards 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 Chief Dull Knife College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that Chief Dull Knife College:

1. Evaluate the results of its efforts to fulfill the Mission and assess its ability to monitor its environment, adapt, and sustain itself as a viable institution, communicating its conclusions to appropriate constituencies and the public (Standards 5.A and 5.B).
2. Collaboratively develop, implement, and review a systematic framework for assessment to include:
  - a. A clear, measurable definition of mission fulfillment (Standard 1.B.2)
  - b. Meaningful, valid, and reliable core theme indicators that can be used to measure achievement of core theme objectives, inform planning, and determine mission fulfillment (Standards 1.B.2, 4.A.1, and 4.B.1).
  - c. All major college units, including: the Vice President's Office, Financial Office, Cultural Affairs, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Information Technology, and Library (Standards 2.A.9, 2.B.3, 2.B.6, 2.E.2, 2.D.10, 2.G.1, 4.A, and 4.B).
3.
  - a. Create and utilize assessment of student learning outcomes at the course, program and degree levels. (Standards 2.C.1-3, 2.C.5, 2.C.9- 10)
  - b. Utilize those assessments to document student achievement and inform academic planning and improvement. (Standards 2.C.1-3, 2.C.9, 2.D.5, 4.A.3, and 4.B.2)
5. Promote effective management and operation in its governance and decision- making structures and that policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and revised, as necessary. (Standards 2.A.1, 2.A.6, 2.A.11, 2.A.15-21, 2.A.24, 2.B.2, 2.D.3, 2.D.11, 2.F.2, 2.F.5, 2.G.3, and 2.G.8)

### **Required Follow-Up**

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Fall 2020
  - Address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with an addendum Spring 2022
  - Address Recommendation 4 of the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum

July 8, 2019

Page 3 of 3

### **Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Fall 2020
  - 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 5: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with an addendum Spring 2022
  - Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- 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, Vice President Valerie Martinez.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:vm

cc: William L. Wertman, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Drs. Kenneth Lawson and Steve Ward, Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation Committee Co-Chairs