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July 12, 2019

Dr. James E. Minkler
President
Grays Harbor College
1620 Edward P. Smith Drive
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Dear President Minkler:

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 Grays Harbor 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

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2014 Year Three Resources and Capacity Evaluation - *Fulfilled*
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2014 Year Three Resources and Capacity Evaluation - *Continued as Needs Improvement* as Recommendations 3 and 5 of the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation

Commendations

The Commission commends Grays Harbor College for:

1. The outstanding level of preparation and participation in the activities to support the Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability report and visit.
2. Its exemplary focus on its community that includes provision of visual arts, response to changing demographics, and implementation of academic, workforce, and community education programs that respond to service area needs.
3. For faculty and staff dedication to student success by providing individual student supports as well as maintaining a student-centered culture.
4. The development and use of Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGs) that promote careful and critical examination of processes to improve student learning.

5. For the diligent and comprehensive work of the College and the Incident Response and Command Team to ensure the College is well prepared for emergencies and catastrophic events.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Grays Harbor College:

1. Develop a realistic financial forecasting plan to include evaluation of financial resources to ensure short term solvency and anticipate long-term obligations. This process should include appropriate opportunities for participation by college constituencies (Standard 2.F.1, 2.F.2, 2.F.3).
2. Expedite the process for development and utilization of regular and documented review, with revision as necessary, of policies, particularly those related to financial planning, budget development, and oversight and management of financial resources (Standard 2.A.6, 2.A.30, and 2.F.3).
3. Integrate the multiple planning processes to facilitate prioritization of resource allocation and the use of institutional capacity (Standard 3.A.1, 3.A.4).
4. Fully implement student learning outcomes assessment across all degrees and programs, including the general education program, and use the assessment results to inform planning and improvement (Standard 4.A.3, 4.A.6, 4.B.2).
5. Engage in systematic, participatory, self-reflective assessment of its accomplishments, and documents and evaluates its planning processes to ensure institutional effectiveness (Standard 5.A.1, 5.B.2).

Required Follow-Up

- Financial Resources Review (FRR) Fall 2020 due November 1, 2019
- Ad Hoc Report without a visit Spring 2020
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with addendum Spring 2022
 - 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

- Financial Resources Review (FRR) Fall 2020 due November 1, 2019
- Ad Hoc Report without a visit Spring 2020
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mission and Core Themes Fall 2020
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with addendum Spring 2022
 - 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
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation Spring 2026

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Ramaswamy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonny" being more prominent.

Sonny Ramaswamy
President

SR:pg

cc: Ms. Kristy Anderson, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. Stacey Sherwin, Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability, Committee
Chair