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July 12, 2019

Dr. James Richardson  
President  
Wenatchee Valley College  
1300 Fifth Street  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear President Richardson:

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 Wenatchee Valley 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 Wenatchee Valley College for:

- The accomplishments of faculty, staff and administration in making the holistic support of student success a central aspect of the college culture. The college recognizes the importance of supporting all students, including the unique needs of non-traditional, first-generation, and underrepresented students.
- Genuine efforts to create a diverse, welcoming and inclusive environment for students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds. These efforts are notable for the breadth and depth of the work and for the pride in success that is evident throughout the Wenatchee Valley College community.
- Its responsiveness across the spectrum of workforce, social, demographic, economic and environmental needs throughout the service region. These efforts have been creatively driven by college outreach to provide existing services in unconventional locations; by agile responsiveness to community requests; and by solution-oriented responsiveness to external events.

- Its work surrounding the creation of the new strategic plan. These efforts were comprehensive, participatory, and focused on creating a plan closely aligned with the college's mission and core themes.

### **Recommendations Out of Compliance**

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Wenatchee Valley 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 Wenatchee Valley College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that Wenatchee Valley College:

2. Document through an effective, regular and comprehensive system of assessment, that students achieve identified learning outcomes at the course, program, and institutional level. Faculty with teaching responsibilities are responsible for evaluating student achievement of clearly identified learning outcomes. (2.C.5; 4.A.3)
3. Use the results of its assessment of student learning to inform academic and learning-support planning and practices that lead to enhancement of student learning achievements. (4.B.2)

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

The Commission recommends that Wenatchee Valley College:

1. Assess the Omak campus to ensure that it is safe, secure, and sufficient in both quantity and quality, ensuring healthful learning and working environments that support the institution's mission, programs, and services. The evaluation committee further recommends that the institution make provisions for the security of property at the Omak campus. (2.D.2; 2.G.1)

### **Required Follow-Up**

- 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

### **Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Fall 2019
- 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

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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 Les Steele.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Ramaswamy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:ls

cc: Mr. Ty Jones, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Mr. Chris Bragg, Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Committee Chair