



February 3, 2020

President Sheila Edwards Lange  
Seattle Central College  
1701 Broadway, BE 4180  
Seattle, WA 98122

Dear President Edwards Lange:

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 January 8-10, 2020, concerning the Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of Seattle Central 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 Seattle Central College for:

1. The alignment of its Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Core Themes, and Core Theme Objectives. This alignment has wide-spread support across campus.
2. The evaluation system for leadership, including the Chancellor and President, which is robust and meaningful. Further, it is based upon best practices in the field.
3. The Student Handbook, which is complete, useful, and a valuable resource for Seattle Central College's students.
4. The very fine job of investing in thoughtful professional development planning at all levels of their institution.
5. The depth and specificity of classified expectations listed in the Classified Staff Evaluation Form are thorough, set a strong standard and provide managers with clear language and behaviors to discuss with their employees.
6. The library's support of classes from a wide range of disciplines, with a high degree of satisfaction.
7. The Continuing Education and Non-Credit program is complimented for its innovation and ability to respond effectively to community need.
8. The extensive and well-supported co-curricular activity options, which are supported by the College with a dean, director, and four full time staff. The hiring process for the Associated Student Leadership (ASL) is impressive and students in the program report that they are learning valuable skills in leadership and confidence.
9. The resources deployed to support its Baccalaureate programs.

10. The Collaboration between SCC faculty, deans, and the Vice President of Instruction work to improve programs and services for student success such as the creation of the Curriculum Coordinating Council.
11. Its program of Integrated Projects curriculum, which builds a strong sense of community among students and between faculty.
13. Building the infrastructure necessary to accomplish seamless integration between the operational plan and the Core Themes. To borrow a racing term, “you have to go slow to go fast.” Seattle Central has put in the requisite time in going slow and building up –the College is poised to go fast and achieve great things.

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

The Commission recommends that Seattle Central College:

1. Continue to refine indicators of achievement so they are relevant, meaningful, and reflect the actual work being done on campus to fulfill the College mission (2020 Standards: 1.B.2).
2. Improve student and stakeholder's accessibility to expected learning outcomes, required course sequences, and the names, titles, degrees held, and conferring institutions for administrators and full-time faculty. (2020 Standards: 2.G.2).
3. Systematically evaluate and provide effective orientation and academic advising to students. Advising should be timely, useful, and accurate. Academic, transfer, and graduation requirements must be provided and easily located. (2020 Standards: 1.C.3, 1.C.4, 2.G.6).
4. Provide facilities that are safe and secure to ensure a healthful learning and working environment (2020 Standards: 2.I.1).
5. Continue to build out their curriculum monitoring and assessment system to provide an effective, regular, comprehensive system of assessment that demonstrates the successful achievement of student learning outcomes across courses, degrees and programs (including general education learning outcomes, AA and AS degrees). (2020 Standards: 1.C.5, 1.C.6).

### **Recommendations Out of Compliance**

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Seattle Central 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](#), the Commission requires that Seattle Central College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that Seattle Central College:

6. Use the results of student learning outcomes assessments to inform planning and practices that enhance and improve student learning. Assessments and improvements, based on assessment, are to be readily available to appropriate constituencies in a timely manner. (2020 Standards: 1.C.7).

**Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2021
  - Recommendation 6: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Ad Hoc Report without a visit Fall 2021
  - Recommendation 4: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 5: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2022
  - Recommendation 1: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 2: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 3: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2025
- Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 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.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:eg

cc: Dr. Bradley Lane, Vice President for Instruction  
Dr. Teresa Rivenes, Tillamook Bay Community College