



July 23, 2021

Kimberlee Messina
President
Spokane Falls Community College
3410 W. Whistalks Way
Spokane, WA 99224-5288

Dear President Messina:

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 23-25, 2021, concerning the Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Spokane Falls Community 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 Spokane Falls Community College for:

1. Its dedication to student success, as demonstrated by implementation of and enthusiasm for Guided Pathways.
2. Its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, that is well understood, articulated, and operationalized at all levels of the institution.
3. The resilience of faculty and staff, and their continued care for, and commitment to, the college and its students through challenging times and circumstances, including implementation of the ERP and the COVID-19 pandemic

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Spokane Falls Community College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Formalize an inclusive, systematic planning and evaluation process, which informs and refines institutional effectiveness, assigns resources, and improves student learning and student achievement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;1.B.3)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Identify and publish expected program and degree learning outcomes, and engage in regular and ongoing assessment to evaluate quality of learning in its academic transfer programs. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.3;1.C.5)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Demonstrate all faculty, staff, and administrators are evaluated on a regular and systematic basis. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.4)

Recommendations Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Spokane Falls Community College is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. The Commission requires that Spokane Falls Community College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that Spokane Falls Community College:

- Recommendation 3: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Complete financial audit processes in a regular and timely manner. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.1;ER 20)

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Fall 2022
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2024
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2027
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2028

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

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, Dr. Selena Grace, at sgrace@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Mr. James D. Brady, Acting Vice President of Learning
Ms. Bridget Piper, Board of Trustees, Chair
Dr. Lori Stinson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lewis-Clark State College