

February 12, 2021

Kevin Brockbank President Spokane Community College 1810 North Greene Street, MS 2150 Spokane, WA 99217-5399

## Dear President Brockbank:

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 13-15, 2021, concerning the Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability of Spokane 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

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

• Recommendation 2: Fall 2013 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled

#### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Spokane Community College for:

- 1. Establishing a climate of respect, open and honest communication, transparency, and collaboration across all levels of the college.
- 2. Its strong commitment to the mission of the college, focus on equity and holistic student support, and collaborative efforts to advance college-wide initiatives through data-informed practices that support student success.
- 3. Establishing a safe and secure campus, and effectively planning and preparing for emergencies. Such planning helped ensure continued and safe operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4. Library faculty and staff for their extensive program of information literacy, robust provision of technology support, and for consistently promoting and maintaining an accessible, safe, and welcoming atmosphere for student learning and engagement.
- 5. Its broad support of faculty through the Teaching and Learning Center, and its campus-wide support of data literacy.

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

The Commission recommends that Spokane Community College:

- Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Disseminate financial information to stakeholders for the purposes of financial planning and resource management. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.2)
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Continue to develop the system of continuous improvement and fully implement the use and analysis of meaningful,

assessable, and verifiable data to evaluate objectives and document how the assessment process drives planning and resource allocation. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;1.B.3)

# **Recommendations Out of Compliance**

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

The Commission recommends that Spokane Community College:

• Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Complete financial audit processes in a regular and timely manner. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.1;ER 20)

### **Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report Fall 2021
  - Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2023
  - o Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 3: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Year 6 Standard 2 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2026
- Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2027

Per <u>USDE guidance</u>, 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. Mac Powell, at mpowell@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,

Sonny Ramaswamy

President

cc: Ms. Jennifer L. Martin, Vice President of Instruction

Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Director, Academic Affairs, Flathead Valley Community College