



July 12, 2024

Rebekah S. Woods  
President  
Columbia Basin College  
2600 North 20th Avenue  
Pasco, WA 99301

Dear President Woods:

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 18-21, 2024, concerning the Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Columbia Basin College.

### **Accreditation**

Reaffirm Accreditation

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

- Finding Type 1: Spring 2023 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Columbia Basin College for:

1. Welcoming and integrating new employees into the college by providing meaningful connections and developing a sense of belonging through onboarding and New Employee Orientation (NEO) Week.
2. Providing robust professional development opportunities that benefit employees and students, allowing them to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the institutional community.
3. Their planning, construction, and maintenance of facilities at both campuses and their collaboration with other colleges, public library systems, and industry partners to provide exceptional facilities and learning opportunities for students.
4. Its commitment to including a diverse group of stakeholders, from across the college and across the community, in the development of its strategic plan.
5. Ensuring that planning and decision-making processes are equity-focused and demonstrate a commitment to the college's Hispanic Serving Institution designation.
6. An institution wide commitment to transforming student lives.

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

The Commission recommends that Columbia Basin College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Regularly and systematically evaluate exempt and administrative employees based on clearly communicated criteria. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.4)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Identify and clearly publish program learning outcomes for all levels of degrees, certificates and credentials with special attention paid to programs with stackable completion options. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.3)
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Fully engage faculty across the institution in systematic review and assessment of program and institutional learning outcomes to consistently measure student achievement and learning for the continuous improvement of instructional programs. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5;1.C.6)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Systematically demonstrate and document the use of assessment results to inform and continuously improve student learning in all programs. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.7)

### Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2026
  - Recommendation 1: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 2: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2027
  - Recommendation 3: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 4: Spring 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2030
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2031

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. Ed Harri, at [eharri@nwccu.org](mailto:eharri@nwccu.org).

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

cc: Ms. Melissa McBurney, Dean for Accreditation and Assessment  
Ms. Kimberly Harper, Board Chair  
Mr. Chris Bragg, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Operations, College of Southern Idaho  
Mr. Michael Meotti, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council  
Mr. Paul Francis, Executive Director, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges