

## **Executive Summary of Accreditation Evaluation Committee Report April 2015:**

**Prepared by Deborah Sipe, Accreditation Liaison Officer**

**(To be used in conjunction with the 35 page report by the Evaluation Committee from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities-Conducted April 7-10, 2015)**

### Commendations (verbatim)

The Evaluation Committee commends the college for:

1. Its broadly shared commitment to serving students and communities throughout its service area. The main campus and outreach centers have established meaningful collaborations with community service providers that ensure that the campus is effectively meeting local educational needs.
2. Its well-designed and beautifully maintained physical facilities on the main campus and at its outreach centers. The facilities complement the caring and supportive attitudes for students demonstrated by all of the campus units with which the evaluation committee has interacted during its visit.
3. Its proactive and consistent approach in navigating the challenging state budget situation during a time of leadership transition at the college. The college has come through this difficult time with adequate reserves while minimizing negative impacts on core programs and services (2.F.1, 2.F.2.).
4. Its commitment to the success of pre-college level students. Its research-based, holistic, multi-strategy approach provides strong support for its ABS/ESOL students as they transition to pre-college or college. Its exemplary programs include alternative placement testing, mandatory and intrusive advising accelerated or contextualized courses, and tuition assistance for these important members of the student body.
5. Its rigorous curriculum approval process and for the support it provides to faculty through the Opportunity Center in the Teaching and Learning Department.
6. Providing student support services that are well aligned with the institution's mission, core themes and strategic goals. The college has implemented a number of initiatives and strategies in recent years that demonstrate its firm commitment to student success. Student support services staff are dedicated, innovative and work in a collaborative manner to deliver programs and services. Students emphatically indicated to evaluators that the college provides a welcoming environment that promotes learning, diversity, and strong community engagement.

### Recommendations (verbatim)

1. The evaluation committee recommends that Chemeketa Community College review their indicators and their definition of mission fulfillment to ensure that:
  - a. The measurements associated with the indicators provide information that can be used to make programmatic and budgetary decisions. (Standard 1.B.2)
  - b. The definition of mission fulfillment maps clearly to the indicators and their associated measures. (Standard 1.A.1)
2. The evaluation committee recommends that Chemeketa Community College ensure that they have published program outcomes for each program and that their assessments of program and general education outcomes accurately and adequately reflect student learning. (Standards 2.C.1, 2.C.2, 2.C.3, 2.C.9, 2.C.10.)

### **Summary of Evaluation Committee Concerns and Compliments**

#### Areas of Concern:

1. Core Theme Measures
  - a. College Preparation: Need to (a) include measures that address transition to higher levels of college work, (b) review measures for Objectives C and D for value in determining mission fulfillment, making program and budgetary decisions.
  - b. Workforce Education: (a) Need more rationale for treating separately CTE student cohorts without formal admissions processes; (b) Non-Fall entering students are excluded from indicator.
2. Resources and Capacity
  - a. Statewide general education outcomes - evaluators' questions: (a) Assessed at program or unit level? (b) Can be effectively assessed at all? (c) Are they really guidelines?
  - b. Library: Need evidence regarding effectiveness of program in helping students achieve information literacy outcomes.
3. Core Theme Planning, Assessment, and Improvement
  - a. Many unit plans (a) don't tie future activities, budget requests to core themes or college-wide efforts (strategic plan), (b) aren't closely aligned with core theme measures, Master Academic Plan or strategic plan.
  - b. Lack of clarity regarding relationship between indicators and (a) contributing components of programs, and (b) planning for programs and services.
  - c. Planning for programs and services appear to be driven more by factors external to those being measured in indicators. Review of indicators is appropriate.
4. Assessment
  - a. Course-level learning outcomes assessment is inconsistently documented.

- b. Not all unit plans contain information on program-level outcomes assessment.
- c. Method of evaluating core theme achievement is not intuitive; may lead to inflated outcomes.
- d. Loose connection between unit plan improvement strategies and core theme objectives.

### Compliments

1. Excellent support to Evaluation Committee to do its work.
2. College commitment to increasing the diversity of its faculty.
3. Rigorous curriculum approval process.
4. Support to faculty through the Opportunity Center in the Teaching and Learning Department.
5. Library's service orientation encourages student and faculty use of library resources; ensures that library is seen as a valued member of the college community.
6. IT planning is comprehensive and responsive to the college's goals, core themes and student needs.

### **Summary - General Comments from Evaluators**

1. Chemeketa provided excellent support for the Evaluation Committee (well-written materials and candid interviews) that allowed the Committee to develop accurate perceptions of the college and its strengths and challenges.
2. On the whole, the evaluators found a remarkably sound, well-run institution that is providing important educational opportunities for thousands of students.
3. The evaluation committee did not encounter areas of major concern that required a focused response. The concerns described in the report all represent areas of refinement rather than any fundamental worry.
4. The evaluation committee was excited to have the opportunity to identify in the concerns, areas that need some attention to bring them to the level of excellence that we found at the institution.
5. The institution was found to have met, and in many areas, exceeded its metrics for mission fulfillment.

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