



July 25, 2022

Dr. Jessica Howard
President and CEO
Chemeketa Community College
4000 Lancaster Drive NE
Salem, OR 97305

Dear President Howard:

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 21-24, 2022, concerning the Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Chemeketa 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 Chemeketa Community College for:

1. Significant improvements in their assessment processes, moving from a strong foundation at the mid-cycle to implementation.
2. Creating a faculty-driven process for program review which yields inherent value to the units.
3. Their rapid and strong response to COVID, providing students, faculty and staff support services; providing hot spots and laptops; quickly transitioning to remote learning; and maintaining essential services such as the Testing Center; and face-to-face CTE classes with appropriate PPE.
4. Resiliency and innovation in maintaining student access, support services, instructional quality, and safety through extraordinary challenges.
5. Significant development in DEI, including earning the designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution, laying a foundation for rapid growth this this area.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Chemeketa Community College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Clarify how multiple institutional processes and goals (mission and core themes, academic and service area program review, assessment data and results, institutional indicator scorecards, Guided Pathways, DEI) are taken into account in strategic planning, decision making, and budget allocations. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;1.B.3;1.C.7;1.D.4)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Improve internal communications regarding strategic planning, budget development, and change management to ensure that all constituents are informed about, and have input where appropriate into, decision-making processes. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.3)

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2025
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2028
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2029

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. Ron Larsen, at rlarsen@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Ms. Julie Peters, Dean of Academic and Organizational Effectiveness
Ms. Jackie Franke, Board Chair
Mr. Juan Baez-Arevalo, Director, Office of Student Access and Completion
Dr. Richard Middleton-Kaplan, Dean of Arts & Sciences, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood & Parenting Education, and Human & Social Services, Walla Walla Community College