



July 22, 2020

President Laurie Chesley
Central Oregon Community College
2600 NW College Way
Bend, OR 97701

Dear Dr. Chesley:

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 24-26, 2020, concerning the Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Evaluation of Central Oregon 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 Central Oregon Community College for:

1. The board, faculty, staff, and administrators creating an organizational climate that fosters optimism, collegiality, transparency, and inclusiveness.
2. Strategic use of technology to enhance communications, transparency, institutional effectiveness, and student success.
3. The students, faculty, staff, and administrators for their high level of engagement and graciousness during a pandemic.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Central Oregon Community College:

1. Set and articulate meaningful objectives and indicators of its Community Enrichment goal to define mission fulfillment, and to improve its effectiveness in the context of and in comparison with regional and national peer institutions (2020 Standard 1.B.2).
2. Refine its current practices to create an effective system of evaluation that systematically (integrated across all levels of course, program, and general education) assesses student learning outcomes to ensure currency and improvement of teaching, learning and student success (2020 Standard 1.B.1, 1.C.5, 1.C.6, 1.C.7).
3. Regularly and systematically evaluate administrators based on clearly communicated criteria (2020 Standard 2.F.4).
4. Publicize the institution's loan default rate on its website (2020 Standard 2.G.5).

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Fall 2021
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2023
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 – Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2026
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2027

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.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Frances (Betsy) Julian, Vice President for Instruction
Ms. Laura Craska-Cooper, Board Chair
Dr. Janice Alexander, Professor of Chemistry and Forensic Science, Flathead Valley Community College