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July 24, 2018

Dr. Thomas Keegan  
President  
Skagit Valley College  
2405 East College Way  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5899

Dear President Keegan:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation of Skagit Valley College by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Based on these materials and deliberations, the Commissioners took the following actions:

**Accreditation**

- Reaffirm Accreditation.

**Recommendation:** Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following Recommendation is an area where Skagit Valley College is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (attached), the Commission requires that Skagit Valley College take appropriate action to ensure this Recommendation is addressed and resolved in the prescribed period. The Commission recommends that the College:

1. Fully implement student learning outcomes assessment across all courses, programs, and degrees, wherever offered and however delivered (2.C.1).

**Recommendations:** Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation In Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that the College:

2. Systematically use the results of the assessment of student learning achievement for improvement of instructional and student support programs (4.A.3; 4.B.2).
3. Perform regular and systematic evaluation of the quality, adequacy, utilization, and security of library resources and services (2.E.4).

**Required Follow-Up**

- Address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report in an Ad Hoc Report with a visit in Fall 2019.
- Address Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report in an Ad Hoc Report without a visit in Spring 2020.
- Address Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report as an Addendum to the 2021 Mid-Cycle Evaluation Report.

**Commendations:** Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends Skagit Valley College in particular for the following:

1. Establishing a climate of respect, open and honest communication, and collaboration that is pervasive across all levels of the College and across all College locations.
2. The outstanding job that has been done planning and preparing for emergencies; students and employees report being keenly aware of emergency protocols and having participated in various emergency preparedness drills. The College has established partnerships with local law enforcement and implemented various alert systems throughout College locations.
3. Its focus on supporting equitable student achievement, completion, and success using high impact practices supported by ongoing planning, data-informed decision-making, and faculty professional development.

**Future Evaluations**

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Fall 2019.
- Ad Hoc Report with a visit in Fall 2019 to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Ad Hoc Report without a visit in Spring 2020 to address Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2021 to include an addendum to address Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2025.

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 NWCCU.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:rb

cc: Dr. Dave Paul, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Ms. Megan Scott O'Bryan, Chair, Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees  
Mr. Chris Bragg, Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Committee Chair