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February 3, 2017

Dr. Bert Glandon  
President  
College of Western Idaho  
6056 Birch Lane  
Nampa, ID 83687

Dear President Glandon: <sup>Bert</sup>

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that at its January 11-13, 2017, meeting, the Commission granted initial accreditation to the College of Western Idaho at the associate degree level. Congratulations on receiving this recognition! We are aware of the many years of hard work and dedication on the part of the administration, faculty, board, and staff to achieve this goal. The effective date of accreditation for the College of Western Idaho is September 1, 2016. The accredited status of the College of Western Idaho will be posted to the Commission's website.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. Under the seven-year accreditation cycle, the following reviews are scheduled for the College of Western Idaho:

Fall 2017: Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report  
Fall 2019: Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report and Visit  
Fall 2023: Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Self-Evaluation Report and Visit

In granting initial accreditation, the Commission revised Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report. The revised Recommendation 1 is as follows:

The evaluation committee recommends that the College of Western Idaho immediately evaluate and integrate its activities for institutional planning, enrollment management, resource allocation, and assessment efforts to ensure the adequacy, alignment, and effectiveness of (1) an equitable distribution of the work of its institutional processes and governance among its employees; (2) a consolidated facilities approach to serve the number of students it enrolls; (3) its efforts to increase student access to effective academic advising; and (4) its efforts to increase student retention and completion rates (Standards 2.B.1, 2.B.4, 2.D.10, 2.G.3, 5.B.1, and 5.B.2).

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In addition, the Commission requests that the College of Western Idaho submit an Ad Hoc Report with a visit in spring 2018 to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report (copy enclosed). Moreover, the Commission requests that President Glandon and his designated College leaders travel to Redmond, Washington, to meet with President Elman and her NWCCU designated colleagues within 90 days to discuss mission fulfillment and institutional sustainability related to the accreditation standards of the Commission.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where the College of Western Idaho is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation but in need of improvement.

However, the Commission determined that Recommendations 1 and 5 of the Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report do not meet the Commission's criteria 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* (enclosed), the Commission requires that the College of Western Idaho take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendations 1 and 5 of the Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission issued a *Notice of Concern* (a private sanction formerly known as a *Warning*) for Recommendations 1 and 5 of the Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation Peer-Evaluation Report (Standards 2.B.1, 2.B.4, 2.D.10, 2.G.3, 4.A.2, 4.A.6, 5.B.1, and 5.B.2) regarding the ability of the institution to shift its efforts from rapid to manageable growth in order to ensure its future viability and compliance with the Commission's Standards for Accreditation and Eligibility Requirements. The College's capacity for mission fulfillment and sustainability is predicated on the institution's ability to make significant and substantial progress with regard to the adequacy of its finances and infrastructure including the development of integrated processes for systematically evaluating overall institutional effectiveness.

The Commission commends the College of Western Idaho for the implementation and thorough documentation of a plan for shared governance that clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of various constituent groups within the College. In addition, the Commission commends the College for having fostered a campus culture that values and practices innovation while meeting the educational needs of the communities it serves. Moreover, the Commission finds laudable the College library's commitment to grow its collection and services to meet the information needs of students and faculty and also applauds the College for its revision of General Education in a college-wide implementation. Lastly, the Commission finds noteworthy the College's development of strong community and workforce partnerships.

We will write in Spring 2017 regarding the Fall 2017 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report.

Again, congratulations on this achievement. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Best wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations  
*Commission Policy, Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within  
Specified Period*

cc: Dr. David Shellberg, Executive Vice President for Instruction and Student Services  
Mr. Mark Dunham, Chair, CWI Board of Trustees  
Ms. Emma Atchley, President, Idaho State Board of Education  
Dr. Jeff Fox, President, College of Southern Idaho, Sponsoring Institution  
Dr. Herman Bounds, Jr., Director, Accrediting Agency Evaluation Unit, USDE  
Mr. Paul Basken, Editor, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
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