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January 31, 2014

Dr. Janet Gullickson  
President  
Spokane Falls Community College  
3410 W. Fort George Wright Drive, MS 3010  
Spokane Falls, WA 99224-5288

Dear President Gullickson: *Janet*

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Spokane Falls Community College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2013 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report and to provide an update on Eligibility Requirements 2 and 3.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College include an addendum in its Fall 2014 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 1, 2, and 5 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission requests that the College submit an Ad Hoc Report in Fall 2014 to address Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. These should be two separate and distinct reports. Moreover, the Commission requests that the College include an addendum to its Fall 2016 Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendation 4 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 4, and 5 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Spokane Falls Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. However, the Commission determined that Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report is an area where Spokane Falls Community College does 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 Spokane Falls Community College take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2013 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period. A copy of the Recommendations and Commission Policy are enclosed for your reference.

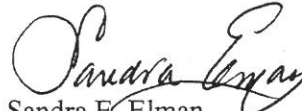
The Commission commends the College's trustees, faculty, staff, and administration for their passion for student success, their activities focused on diversity, and their commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. In addition, the Commission commends the College for its success in integrating assessment into its culture of teaching and learning. Moreover, the Commission applauds the College's Career Technical Education programs for their strong response to industry and community input which is effectively used by faculty and administration to guide curriculum and program development. Lastly, the Commission finds noteworthy the College's Associated Student Government for its ongoing support for campus safety, diversity awareness, and student support initiatives.

President Janet Gullickson  
January 31, 2014  
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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. James E. Minkler, Vice President of Learning ✓  
Ms. Bridget Piper, Board Chair  
Mr. Marty Brown, Executive Director, Washington State Board for Community  
and Technical Colleges

**Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation**  
**Fall 2013**  
**Spokane Falls Community College**  
**Recommendations**

1. The evaluation committee recommends that the College articulate an acceptable threshold of mission fulfillment and ensure the effective measurement of core themes and that the core themes “individually manifest” and “collectively encompass” the College’s mission statement. Further the core theme objectives and verifiable indicators should be rigorous and meaningful, should align to evaluate the accomplishment of core themes, and should holistically inform the evaluation of programs and services for each core theme objective (Standards 1.A.2, 1.B.2; 3.B.3; 4.A, and 4.B).
2. The evaluation committee recommends that the College revise its assessment of faculty evaluation and professional development to assure these processes provide ongoing systematic collection and analysis of meaningful, assessable, and verifiable data—quantitative and/or qualitative, as appropriate to its indicators of achievement—as the basis for evaluating the accomplishment of its core theme objectives (Standards 1.B.2; 3.B.3; 4.A.1, and 4.B.1).
3. The evaluation committee recommends that for each year of operation, the College undergo an external financial audit and that the results from such audits, including findings and management letter recommendations, be considered in a timely, appropriate and comprehensive manner by the Board of Trustees (Eligibility Requirement 19 and Standard 2.F.7).
4. The evaluation committee recommends that the institution develop, implement, and regularly review a technology update and replacement plan to ensure its technological infrastructure is adequate to support its operations, programs, and services (Standard 2.G.8).
5. The evaluation committee recommends that the College move aggressively to revise and refine its system of direct and authentic assessment that appraises student accomplishment of general education outcomes from which are derived meaningful results that provide clear direction for curricular and instructional improvement (Standard 4.A.3, 4.A.6, 4.B.1, and 4.B.2).

## *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period Policy*

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation or an eligibility requirement, the Commission will immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance within a time period that shall not exceed: (1) twelve months, if the longest program offered by the institution is less than one year in length; (2) eighteen months, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or (3) two years, if the longest program offered by the institution is at least two years in length.

The Commission may extend the period for compliance noted above should it reasonably expect that, based upon the institution's progress toward meeting the Commission's standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement, the institution will come into full compliance within a reasonable timeframe. Should an institution deem that as a result of mitigating circumstances it is not able to comply with the standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement within the specified period of time, the institution may submit a written request to the Commission for additional time to come into compliance with the standard for accreditation or eligibility requirement. The request is to be submitted prior to the time limit for corrective action set forth by the Commission, provide a detailed explanation of the reasons why the institution cannot comply with the standard for accreditation within the designated time period, and demonstrate that the institution is making good progress in meeting the standard for accreditation. Following a review of the request, the Commission will make a determination as to whether the institution has based its request on valid reasons. If the Commission determines that the institution has substantiated good cause for not complying within the specified time period and is making good progress to come into compliance, the Commission will extend the period for achieving compliance and stipulate requirements for continuing oversight of the institution's accreditation during the extension.

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