



July 21, 2023

Dr. Jesse Peters  
President  
Western Oregon University  
345 Monmouth Avenue North  
Monmouth, OR 97361

Dear President Peters:

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 21-23, 2023, concerning the Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Western Oregon University. 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

#### **Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation**

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mid-Cycle Review - Continued as Needs Improvement and revised to Recommendation 1: Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Finding Type 1: Spring 2022 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled
- Finding Type 2: Spring 2022 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

#### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Western Oregon University for:

1. The commitment of the faculty and staff to Western Oregon University's mission as evidenced by the connection that faculty and staff have to the institution and their dedication to cooperation and collaboration to support student success, even in the face of multiple institutional challenges.
2. Its use of data to improve student achievement. In particular, the curricular alignment project enables students to streamline their path to graduation. This project illustrates the Institution's commitment to equitable student success and was recognized with the NWCCU Beacon Award in 2022

#### **Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that Western Oregon University:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continue its efforts to establish an ongoing and systematic evaluation and planning process that supports the demonstration of continuous improvement and to inform and refine its effectiveness, assign resources, and improve student learning and achievement objectives and measures. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1)

- Recommendation 2: Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Further development and the systematic use of effective enrollment, financial planning and financial management practices to ensure realistic development of financial resources to ensure short term financial health and long-term financial stability and sustainability. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.2)
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Deploy current higher education best practices, including the effective use of technology, to ensure attainment of industry standard practices to achieve its organizational responsibilities and the integrity and continuity of its educational programs (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.3)

#### **Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2024
  - Recommendation 2: Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2025
  - Recommendation 1: Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 3: Spring 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2026
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2029
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2030

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. Gita Bangera, at [gbangera@nwccu.org](mailto:gbangera@nwccu.org).

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

cc: Dr. Judy Sylva, Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness  
Mrs. Betty Komp, Chair  
Dr. Susan Balter-Reitz, Interim Vice Provost and Professor of Communication, Montana State University – Billings  
Mr. Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission