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February 3, 2011

RECEIVED

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PRESIDENT

Dr. Richard W. Cummins
President
Columbia Basin College
2600 North 20th Avenue
Pasco, WA 99301

Dear President Cummins: *Rich*

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that at its January 12-14, 2011 meeting, the Commission reaffirmed the accreditation of Columbia Basin College at the associate degree level and granted accreditation at the baccalaureate degree level on the basis of the Fall 2010 Year Seven Evaluation. The effective date for accreditation at the baccalaureate degree level is September 1, 2009. Congratulations on receiving this recognition.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College submit an addendum to the Fall 2011 Year One Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2010 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.

In making this request, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2010 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Columbia Basin College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

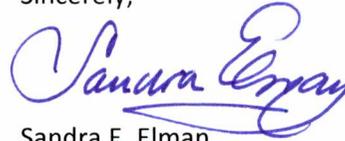
In the unlikely event the Commission should conclude that an institution is in danger of being unable to fulfill its mission and goals or to continue to meet the Eligibility Requirements or Standards, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution submit a report or host one or more evaluators for a special review.

The Commission commends Columbia Basin College for its on-going dedication to the accreditation process, particularly noteworthy for the significant amount of work undertaken in a tightly compressed timeline; the approach to this work in a holistic manner and with a high degree of collaboration; and the innovative methods used to gather and assess data. The Commission finds laudable the College's collection and extensive use of a variety of quantitative data and qualitative interviews to inform the development of themes, goals, and indicators. Further, the Commission commends the College for its thoughtful, thorough, data-driven planning, implementation, and assessment of an integrated, campus-wide approach to crisis planning and emergency response that has engaged a variety of community partners.

Dr. Richard W. Cummins
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Best wishes for a rewarding academic year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Deborah R. Meadows, Dean for Business and IT, Social Science, World Languages,
and eLearning
Ms. Reneé Finke, Board Chair
Mr. Charles Earl, Executive Director, Washington State Board for Community and
Technical Colleges

Year Seven Peer - Evaluation Report
Fall 2010
Columbia Basin Community College
Recommendations

1. While new tools and templates are in place for the assessment of student learning and program review self-study, they have not yet been fully implemented and integrated with planning, decision-making, and resource allocations across applicable core themes. The evaluation committee recommends that the College implement, across the institution, an approach to program evaluation that better aligns and vertically integrates all levels of assessment and that contributes to the achievement of program goals (Standard 4.A.2, 4.A.3, 4.A.4).

2. Assessment of core theme indicators is evident and consistent. Assessment of student learning, plans for improvement, and implementation of those plans, is inconsistent across the core themes. The committee recommends that the College assess student learning, appropriate to the core themes, and use the results of that assessment of student learning to improve student achievement (Standard 4.B.1, 4.B.2).