



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052-3981
425 558 4224
Fax: 425 376 0596
www.nwccu.org

July 27, 2017

Dr. Lee R. Thornton
Interim President
Columbia Basin College
2600 North 20th Avenue
Pasco, WA 99301

Dear President Thornton: ^{Lee}

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to inform you that the accreditation of Columbia Basin College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the unique Spring 2017 Demonstration Project Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission also requests that the College submit its *Mission and Core Themes* Report in spring 2018.

The Commission commends the visionary leadership of former President Rich Cummins coupled with the steadfast, strategic coordination of the College's Demonstration Project Director Joe Montgomery for ensuring that Columbia Basin College engaged in an intensive, deliberative evaluative process aimed at identifying meaningful and valuable means of focusing on the assessment of student learning outcomes in a complex, multifaceted community college. Moreover, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation to Columbia Basin College for participating in the Demonstration Project and making a three-year commitment to focusing on the assessment of student learning outcomes and general education as manifestations of mission fulfillment. The Commission anticipates that the findings and experience of undergoing this innovative, intensive accreditation evaluation will inform ongoing continuous improvement efforts at the College and as importantly be valuable to institutions with a similar scope and breadth of programs both in the Northwest and nationwide with the aim of enhancing the value and meaning of regional accreditation evaluations in the future.

In addition, the Commission commends Columbia Basin College for its campus-wide adoption of the Critical Thinking educational objective that is widely adopted and understood by students, faculty, administration and Board members. Moreover, the Commission finds laudable the College's investment in and support of research-based approaches to learning. Further, the Commission applauds the College for developing a framework for institutional assessment which is supported by a culture of transparency and trust.

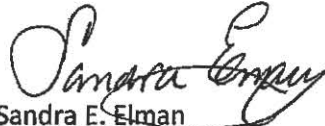
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

President Lee Thornton
Page Two
July 27, 2017

The Commission looks forward to the College's important participation at NWCCU's October 2017 Summit.

Best wishes for a rewarding 2017-2018 academic year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra E. Elman".

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

- cc: ✓ Ms. Melissa McBurney, Associate Vice President for Instruction, Professional Technical Education and Instructional Services
Dr. Joe Montgomery, Dean for Institutional Effectiveness
Mr. Kedrich Jackson, Chair, Board of Trustees
Dr. Rich Cummins, Former President, Columbia Basin College