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July 24, 2018

Dr. Beth Weatherby
Chancellor
The University of Montana - Western
710 South Atlantic
Dillon, MT 59725-3598

Dear Chancellor Weatherby:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation of The University of Montana - Western by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Based on these materials and deliberations, the Commissioners took the following actions:

Accreditation

- Reaffirm Accreditation.

Recommendations: Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation In Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that the University:

1. Maintains or changes its mission moving forward, that it clearly defines mission fulfillment, and that it articulates institutional accomplishments or outcomes that represent an acceptable threshold or extent of mission fulfillment (1.A.2; 5.A.1; 5.A.2).
2. Identify meaningful, assessable, and verifiable indicators of achievement that form the basis for evaluating accomplishment of the objectives of its core themes and regularly review its assessment processes to ensure they appraise authentic achievements and yield meaningful results that lead to improvement (1.B.2; 4.A.6).
3. Engage in ongoing, systematic collection and analysis of meaningful, assessable, and verifiable data as the basis for evaluating the accomplishment of its core theme objectives (4.A.1).
4. Align core themes to achievement of goals and outcomes. Core theme planning should be informed by the collection of appropriately defined data that are analyzed and used to evaluate accomplishment of core theme objectives (3.B.1; 3.B.2; 3.B.3).

Required Follow-Up

- Address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Mission and Core Themes Self-Evaluation Report in Fall 2019.
- Address Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report in Spring 2021.

Commendations: Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends The University of Montana - Western in particular for the following:

1. The innovation on campus with a focus on student success.
2. Effectively adapting to changes within its external environment. By regularly reviewing the adequacy of its resources, capacity, and effectiveness of its operations in adjusting to ongoing State budget cuts, UMW has maintained a strong commitment to its students and the institution's primary differentiating characteristic, experiential learning.
3. The positive, strong spirit of relationship building on campus and with external partners.
4. The UMW faculty and staff for their energy and passion around supporting students.
5. The UMW faculty for their progress on the assessment of student learning.
6. The significant growth in its capacity for data collection and progress on institutional research.

Future Evaluations

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Fall 2019 to include an Addendum to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2021 to include an Addendum to address Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2025.

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 NWCCU.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

SR:rb

cc: Dr. Deborah Hedeem, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Ms. Fran M. Albrecht, Chair, Montana University System Board of Regents
Dr. Susan Kalina, Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Committee Chair