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January 18, 2019

Dr. Thomas A. Insko
President
Eastern Oregon University
One University Blvd.
La Grande, OR 97850

Dear President Insko:

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 January 9-11, 2019, concerning the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of Eastern 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

- Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2013 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report are fulfilled and no further action is required.

Commendations

The Commission commends Eastern Oregon University for:

1. Accomplishing the successful transition to an independently governed institution that is increasingly responsive to the needs of the students and the region it serves.
2. Remaining student centered, as exemplified by the successful efforts to improve student retention through improved advising and support services and to increase the diversity of the student body through new recruiting efforts and the establishment of the Multicultural Center.
3. Its master planning and the care of its facilities and grounds, which enhance the beauty of the campus and its harmony with the splendor of the institution's locale.
4. Elevating the performance of Institutional Research, which is producing enhanced data products and analyses and making them readily accessible to inform the process of improvement of programs and services.
5. Its commitment to quality online education, including the advising and other services provided to online students through regional centers, and for evidence of good completion rates and attainment of student learning outcomes for online students.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Eastern Oregon University:

1. Further refine its definition of mission fulfillment in the context of its purpose, characteristics, and expectations and better articulate institutional accomplishments or outcomes that represent an acceptable threshold or extent of mission fulfillment (Standard 1.A.2).

2. Complete, widely disseminate, and fully implement the emergency preparedness and continuity and recovery of operations plans that it is in the process of developing (Standard 3.A.5).
3. Fully implement and sustain an effective system of evaluation of all its programs and services, wherever offered and however delivered, to evaluate achievement of clearly identified program goals or intended outcomes and evaluate the impacts of program and service changes (Standard 4.A.2).
4. Improve core theme assessment and the utilization of assessment data, so that results of core theme assessments and results of assessments of programs and services are completed regularly throughout the accreditation cycle; are consistently used for improvement by informing planning, decision making, and allocation of resources and capacity, for example, fundraising and budget planning; and made available to appropriate constituencies in a timely manner (Standard 4.B.1).

Required Follow-Up

- Address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Spring 2020 Mission and Core Themes Report.
- Submit a Special Report regarding Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report in Fall 2020.
- Again address Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Fall 2021 Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report.

Future Evaluations

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Spring 2020 with an addendum to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Special Report in Fall 2020 regarding Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation and visit in Fall 2021 with an addendum to address Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation and visit in Fall 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 your staff liaison, Vice President Valerie Martinez.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

SR:rb

cc: Ms. Karen Clay, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Mr. David Nelson, Chair, Board of Trustees
Dr. Susan Henrichs, Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation
Committee Chair