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January 31, 2019

Dr. Cathy Sandeen  
Chancellor  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508-8054

Dear Chancellor Sandeen:

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 the University of Alaska Anchorage. 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 of the Fall 2011 Year 1 Peer-Evaluation Report is fulfilled and no further action is required.
- Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2014 Mid-Cycle Peer-Evaluation Report is fulfilled and no further action is required.

#### **Commendations**

The Commission commends the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) for:

1. An inclusive planning process for UAA 2020, which brought the campuses together in an unprecedented joint effort focused on Student Success.
2. Its culture of diversity and inclusivity, especially in relationship to Alaska Native communities.
3. Its commitment to community engagement and the Public Square.
4. Its extensive assessment efforts related to student learning. Faculty exhibit robust ownership and leadership in assessing academic programs, and also engage proactively in the multifaceted assessment of General Education.

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

The Commission recommends that the University of Alaska Anchorage:

1. Expand efforts around institutional planning of graduate programs to demonstrate their academic quality and role in mission fulfillment (Standard 2.C.12).
2. Continue the focus on collaborative Student Success efforts to raise low graduation and retention rates and support Mission Fulfillment (Standard 5.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.

**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.
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation and visit in Fall 2021.
- 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, Senior Fellow Dr. Mac Powell.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:rb

cc: Ms. Megan Carlson, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Mr. John Davies, Chair, University of Alaska Board of Regents  
Dr. James Johnsen, President, University of Alaska System  
Dr. Laura Woodworth-Ney, Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation  
Committee Chair