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January 18, 2019

Dr. George S. Bridges
President
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W.
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear President Bridges:

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 Evergreen State College. 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.

Commendations

The Commission commends The Evergreen State College for:

1. The collective spirit and dedication to the foundations of Evergreen in the face of challenging circumstances and events.
2. The high level of mutual respect between students and faculty, and their enthusiasm and engagement in the interdisciplinary teaching and learning process.
3. The level of energy and dedication required to maintain a distinctive opportunity for interdisciplinary higher education, and the Academic Statement and Paths of Study initiatives being well aligned with Mission, Five Foci, and Six Expectations of an Evergreen graduate.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that The Evergreen State College:

1. Better align Core Theme indicators and measurement tools to achieve more meaningful results that lead to improvement due to the fact that some objectives lack direct measures for the assessment of Core Themes (Standard 4.A.6).
2. Address recommendations from previous work done in planning for Core Theme 4 to better achieve Core Theme 4 objectives (Standard 3.B.2).
3. Develop a realistic multi-year enrollment management plan in support of financial resource planning due to the consistent decline in enrollment starting in 2010 (Standard 2.F.2).
4. Conduct institutional planning in a systematic and integrated manner, making use of comprehensive opportunities for input and communication among all constituents of the campus, and further recommends when plans are implemented, they be made available and communicated to appropriate constituencies (Standard 3.A.1, 3.A.2).

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Required Follow-Up

- Address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Spring 2020 Mission and Core Themes Self-Evaluation Report.

Future Evaluations

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Spring 2020 with an addendum to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 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 Vice President, Dr. Les Steele.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

SR:rb

cc: Dr. Jennifer Drake, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Mr. Fred Goldberg, Chair, The Evergreen State College Board of Trustees
Dr. Royce Engstrom, Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation
Committee Chair