Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Resolution Regarding Certain Operations During Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19

WHEREAS in response to the continued spread of COVID-19, the United States Department of Education has issued guidance to accrediting agencies regarding temporary flexibilities necessitated by challenges presented to the postsecondary education community; and

WHEREAS it is critically important to protect the health and well-being of NWCCU’s volunteer evaluators, Commissioners, and staff;

WHEREAS it is challenging for accrediting agencies to perform in-person evaluation site visits;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Executive Committee of NWCCU, acting on behalf and for the Commission, adopts this Resolution to conduct evaluation site visits as follows:

NWCCU may conduct virtual evaluation site visits by video conference or telephone, if video conference call is unavailable;

Virtual site visits, pursuant to this Resolution, shall be followed by in-person visits to the campus within a reasonable period following the virtual site visit consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements; and

This Resolution shall be reviewed every thirty (30) days or sooner upon guidance from the United States Department of Education.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2020

[Signature]

Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil.
Chair, NWCCU

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