

## Elsa Gossett

---

**From:** NWCCU Information  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 3:29 PM  
**To:** Commission; Staff  
**Cc:** herman.bounds@ed.gov; McKissic, Stephanie  
**Subject:** NOTICE: NWCCU to Undertake Virtual Evaluation Spring Visits in Response To COVID-19  
**Attachments:** COVID-19 and Online Classes.pdf

Good afternoon:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, and in accordance with the recommendations of federal, state, and county health agencies, NWCCU has cancelled all in-person accreditation evaluation campus visit travel for Spring 2020 in favor of digital, online alternatives. We will be utilizing Zoom video conferencing platform for the evaluation meetings and discussions between the Evaluation Teams and institutional representatives.

The vast majority of our evaluators have the capacity, experience, and ability to participate in a virtual accreditation evaluation visit. Our staff and contractors will stand ready to provide technical support, as needed, during the visit. Western Governor's University has graciously offered to conduct training webinars for our volunteers on the basics of hosting online meetings, moderating virtual discussion groups, and troubleshooting video and audio connections. We have also received offers of help from other member colleges and universities that are well versed in distance learning. If you or your campus are scheduled for a Spring 2020 visit, details will be sent shortly on how the evaluation will be conducted remotely. The U.S. Department of Education has approved our request to undertake virtual accreditation evaluation visits; we are awaiting the notification letter from the Office of Postsecondary Education, United States Department of Education.

Per President Ramaswamy's email on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, NWCCU is requesting notification from all member institutions that are planning on temporarily converting to online teaching. Attached is that message, which includes all of the reporting details we are requesting.

Our primary concern is to ensure that the NWCCU member community is safe and healthy during this time. We continue to monitor the situation and will communicate relevant information to you in a timely manner, and we appreciate your keeping us aware of the situation on your campuses and in your communities.

Thank you for what you do, and please stay safe and healthy.

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities  
8060 165th Avenue NE | Redmond, WA 98052  
425-558-4224 <http://www.nwccu.org>