



February 3, 2020

President Linda J. Kaminski  
Yakima Valley College  
16th & Nob Hill Blvd.  
Yakima, WA 98907

Dear President Kaminski:

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 8-10, 2020, concerning the Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of Yakima Valley 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

#### **Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation**

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2011 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2011 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 1: Fall 2014 Mid-Cycle Review - Fulfilled

#### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Yakima Valley College for:

1. The college faculty, staff, and administration for their commitment to making student access and success a central aspect of the college culture. The college recognizes the importance of supporting all students, including the unique needs of under-prepared, first-generation, and traditionally underrepresented students.
2. On its growing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion through its faculty trainings, with particular emphasis on the ESCALA program and diversity education series, as well to students through implementation of its diversity welcome center.
3. Its exceptional upkeep of facilities and the care of its grounds. The clean, well-maintained campuses exude a welcoming feeling while creating an atmosphere suitable for student success.

### **Recommendations Substantially in Compliance But in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that Yakima Valley College:

1. Engage in an effective, data-informed system of evaluation of all programs and services, using the results to inform planning and improvement (2020 Standards: 1.B.1)
3. Ensure sufficient staffing exists in all areas of the college and that appropriate professional development opportunities are provided for faculty and staff (2020 Standards: 2.F.2, 2.F.3)

### **Recommendations Out of Compliance**

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Yakima Valley College is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, [Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period](#), the Commission requires that Yakima Valley College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that Yakima Valley College:

2. Fully implement degree and program level student learning outcomes assessment across all degrees and programs, including general education. Assessment results should be used to inform academic and learning-support planning and practices that lead to enhancement of student learning achievements. (2020 Standards: 1.C.5, 1.C.6, 1.C.7)

### **Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2021 to address:
  - Recommendation 2: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2022 with addendum to address:
  - Recommendation 1: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
  - Recommendation 3: Fall 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2025
- Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2026

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.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:eg

cc: Mr. Tomas Ybarra, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services  
Mr. Chris Bragg, Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, College of Southern Idaho