



July 22, 2020

President Suzanne Johnson
Green River College
12401 SE 320th Street
Auburn, WA 98092

Dear Dr. Johnson:

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 June 24-26, 2020, concerning the Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of Green River 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: Spring 2013 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 5: Spring 2013 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continued as
Recommendation 2: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability

Commendations

The Commission commends Green River College for:

1. Establishing a positive campus culture that reflects effective communication, transparency, access to decision-makers, and genuine constituent engagement.
2. Their proactive campus preparation that aided the college in responding to the COVID-19 emergency. Of special note is the dedication of all employees in exhibiting care and concern for individuals (students, employees, and community members), as well as services impacted.
3. The development of a strong technology infrastructure that increases critical connectivity and computer support for students, employees, and the community. Specific examples of this strength include MyGreenRiver, the employee access portal, and support for faculty and staff now engaged in on-line teaching and support service provision.
4. The establishment of a comprehensive transitional studies model that effectively contributes to an increase in student retention and completion, especially for traditionally disadvantaged students.
5. A strong commitment to, and funding of, professional development and innovation that contributes to enhanced institutional creativity and strengthens opportunities for the college and its students.
6. The Holman Library faculty and staff for their extensive program of information literacy, robust provision of technology support, and for consistently promoting and maintaining a welcoming and inviting atmosphere for student learning and engagement.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Green River College:

1. Work to demonstrate and document an effective and widely understood system of governance with clearly defined authority, roles, and responsibilities (2020 Standard 2.A.2, 2.A.3, 2.A.4).
2. Move to fully implement an effective and comprehensive system of direct and authentic assessment that measures student accomplishment of existing course, program, and college-wide learning outcomes from which are derived meaningful results that provide clear direction for curricular and instructional improvement (2020 Standard 1.B.1, 1.C.3, 1.C.7, 1.D.3, and 1.D.4)

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2022
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2023
- Year 6 - Standard 2 – Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2026
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2027

For institutions evaluated in Spring 2020, recommendations under the 2010 Standards to be addressed in future evaluations have been translated into NWCCU 2020 Standards.

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

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

cc: Dr. Rolita Flores Ezeonu, Vice President of Instruction
Dr. Tana Hasart, President Emeritus, Pierce College