



March 1, 2024

Mr. Gordon Jones
President
College of Western Idaho
P.O. Box 3010
Nampa, ID 83653

Dear President Jones:

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 30-February 2, 2024, concerning the Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of College of Western Idaho.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 4: Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 6: Fall 2016 Initial Accreditation - Continued as Needs Improvement and revised to Recommendation 1: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Finding Type 1: Fall 2022 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations

The Commission commends College of Western Idaho for:

1. The well designed and smoothly run visit that sets a high bar for accreditation visits.
2. Its well-maintained facilities and grounds creating a warm and welcoming place for students to learn and flourish. The infrastructure includes many spaces for students to congregate and interact for healthful learning and working environments.
3. The high level of collaboration observed between divisions and departments to achieve initiatives and goals. They support one another and enjoy working at CWI.
4. The breadth of student support services and the speed with which they address needs. Exemplary services included advising, tutoring, library, and the Center for Teaching & Learning.
5. The design and early implementation of instructional program and outcomes assessment processes. The design of these processes was intentionally inclusive and accomplished by hard-working faculty, staff, and administrators.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that College of Western Idaho:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Use the results of its assessment efforts to inform and resource academic and learning-support planning and practices to continuously improve student learning outcomes. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;1.C.7)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Use a planning process that is inclusive and offers opportunities for comment by appropriate constituencies, allocates necessary resources, and leads to improvement of institutional effectiveness. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.3)
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness – Ensure that processes and methodologies for collecting and analyzing indicators of student achievement are transparent and are used to inform and implement strategies and allocate resources to mitigate perceived gaps in achievement and equity. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.4)

- Recommendation 4: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Regularly and systematically evaluate all full-time and part-time faculty in alignment with institutional policies and procedures. Evaluations are based on written criteria that are published, easily accessible, and clearly communicated. Evaluations are applied equitably, fairly, and consistently in relation to responsibilities and duties. Personnel are assessed for effectiveness and are provided feedback and encouragement for improvement. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.4)
- Recommendation 5: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Establish clearly defined authority, roles, and responsibilities for its governing board to ensure that the governing board members do not serve as members of institutional standing committees. (2020 Standard(s) 2.A.1;2.A.4)

Concern Statement

The Commission is concerned that having members of the governing Board serve as members of institutional standing committees fails to protect the independence of the operational decision-making processes vested in the institution's faculty, staff, students, and administrators.

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2025
 - Recommendation 4: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 5: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2026
 - Recommendation 1: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 3: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2029
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2030

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, Dr. Ron Larsen, at rlarsen@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Ms. Alexis Malepeai-Rhodes, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Mrs. Molly Lentz, CWI Board of Trustees Chair
Dr. Janice Alexander Haag, Division Chair, Science and Engineering; Professor, Chemistry & Forensic Science, Flathead Valley Community College
Mr. Matt Freeman, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education