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July 27, 2010

Dr. Carol A. Lucey
President
Western Nevada College
2201 West College Parkway
Carson City, NV 89703-7399

Dear President Lucey: ^{Carol}

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Western Nevada College has been reaffirmed at the associate degree level on the basis of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation. In addition, the Commission granted accreditation at the baccalaureate degree level. The effective date for accreditation at the baccalaureate degree level is September 1, 2008. Congratulations on receiving this recognition.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. In the case of Western Nevada College, the Commission requests that the institution prepare a Financial Resources Review in fall 2011 to address Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission requests that Western Nevada College submit an addendum to the institution's Spring 2013 Year Three Report to address Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report are areas where Western Nevada College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

However, the Commission determined that Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report is an area where the College does not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy A-18, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Western Nevada College take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 3 is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period.

In the unlikely event the Commission should conclude that an institution is in danger of being unable to fulfill its mission and goals or to continue to meet the Eligibility Requirements or Standards, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution submit a report or host one or more evaluators for a special review.

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The Commission commends Western Nevada College's president, administration, faculty and staff for their demonstrated collaboration in effective management of the College, particularly during tough economic times, made possible by a highly supportive system chancellor and governing board, and subsequently leading to an efficient operation for the benefit of students. Moreover, the Commission applauds the College on its recent handling of severe budget reductions through broadly engaged shared governance contributing to the budget reduction planning process and resulting in an increase in the overall pride of the campus in itself and its employees. Further, the Commission finds laudable the College's excellent library facilities; efforts to support students and faculty through online resources and services; and dedicated librarians and staff resulting in a high rate of user satisfaction. Lastly, the Commission commends the College for its active commitment to student access and success through its exemplary services, experiences, and opportunities created and administered collaboratively by student services staff and faculty that help students engage in meaningful ways with the institution with particular note for the faculty advisor pilot project, and the Early Alert, Peer Mentoring, Peer Advising, and Bridge to Success programs.

We will write in spring 2011 regarding the Fall 2011 Financial Resources Review and again in fall 2012 regarding the Spring 2013 Year Three Report. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a rewarding academic year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations
Commission Policy A-18

cc: Ms. Carol Lange, Interim Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
Mr. James Dean Leavitt, Chair, Board of Regents
Mr. Daniel Klaich, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education

Comprehensive Evaluation Report
Spring 2010
Western Nevada College
Recommendations

1. The Committee recommends that, as funds become available, quality faculty be hired with a primary commitment to the College for those degree programs currently lacking full-time faculty oversight. Until that time, special oversight should be given by the academic administration to such programs to ensure that program quality is not being seriously diminished (Standard 4.A.1).
2. The Committee recommends that the College implement its plan to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all of its programs. While the College is substantially in compliance with Policy 2.2's direction for planning, progress on collecting and analyzing data that creates specific improvement actions must be a College priority. The first cycle of review, which has been analyzed and corrected where necessary, has revealed the need for another iteration before a complete analysis of the entire assessment effort can be adequately evaluated (Policy 2.2).
3. The Committee recommends that, in spite of the challenges associated with knowing the certainty of future funding, the College project expenditures for a minimum of three years for major categories of expenditures (Standard 7.A.2).
4. The Committee recommends that while the College is in substantial compliance with Standard 3.E, the institution accommodate the fair and equitable treatment of both male and female athletes in providing opportunities for participation, equipment, and access to facilities (Standard 3.E.5).

Policy A-18 Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation, the Commission will immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance within a time period that shall not exceed: 1) twelve months, if the longest program offered by the institution, is less than one year in length; 2) eighteen months, if the longest program offered by the institution, is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or 3) two years, if the longest program offered by the institution, is at least two years in length.

The Commission may extend the period for compliance noted above should it reasonably expect that, based upon the institution's progress toward meeting the Commission's standard for accreditation, the institution will come into full compliance within a reasonable timeframe. Should an institution deem that as a result of mitigating circumstances it is not able to comply with the standard for accreditation within the specified period of time, the institution may submit a written request to the Commission for additional time to come into compliance with the standard for accreditation. The request is to be submitted prior to the time limit for corrective action set forth by the Commission, provide a detailed explanation of the reasons why the institution cannot comply with the standard for accreditation within the designated time period, and demonstrate that the institution is making good progress in meeting the standard for accreditation. Following a review of the request, the Commission will make a determination as to whether the institution has based its request on valid reasons. If the Commission determines that the institution has substantiated good cause for not complying within the specified time period and is making good progress to come into compliance, the Commission will extend the period for achieving compliance and stipulate requirements for continuing oversight of the institution's accreditation during the extension.

Adopted 1997/Revised 2002