Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
NWCCU

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August 11, 2011

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 on the basis of the Spring 2011 Year One Evaluation. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College address Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report in its updated response to Standard One as part of its Spring 2013 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report. The Commission reminds the College that it is also to address Recommendations 1, 2, and 4 of the Spring 2010 Comprehensive Evaluation Report in an addendum to its Spring 2013 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In taking this action, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Western Nevada College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

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

Enclosure: Recommendations (2010 and 2011)

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

Year One Peer-Evaluation Report
Spring 2011
Western Nevada College
Recommendations

1. While core themes are clearly defined, are consistent with the College's legal authorization, and are appropriate to a degree-granting institution of higher education, they have not been adopted by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents—the College's governing board. The evaluation panel recommends that the College provide evidence that its core themes have been adopted by its governing board (Eligibility Requirement 3).

2. While the College has defined mission fulfillment in terms of student success through three strategic plan objectives and ten general education student learning outcomes, it has not identified a level of achievement for each. The evaluation panel recommends that the College identify an acceptable threshold of mission fulfillment based upon identified objectives and outcomes (Standard 1.A.2).

3. Though the College has identified objectives, indicators of achievement, and a rationale for each of its three core themes, the evaluation panel recommends that the College provide indicators that are meaningful and measurable and that provide a clear connection between the indicators of achievement and objectives (Standard 1.B.2).

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).