



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100  
Redmond, WA 98052-3981  
425 558 4224  
Fax: 425 376 0596  
www.nwccu.org

January 28, 2015

Dr. Mary F.T. Spilde  
President  
Lane Community College  
4000 East 30th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97405

Dear President Spilde: <sup>Mary</sup>

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Lane Community College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to include the onsite evaluation of Standards Two, Three, Four and Five.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College expand its Fall 2015 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Report to address Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. Moreover, the Commission requests that the College prepare an Ad Hoc Report without a visit in Spring 2016 to address Recommendations 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission has added Standard 2.A.18 as further explication of Recommendation 6 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 2, 6, and 7 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Lane Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. However, the Commission determined that Recommendations 1, 3, 4, and 5 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report do not meet the Commission's criteria 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* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Lane Community College take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendations 1, 3, 4, and 5 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission commends the Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff, and students of Lane Community College for creating a learning culture that supports and encourages student success. In addition, the Commission commends the Board of Education for their systematic review of College policies and for their strong stewardship of the organization as demonstrated through policy development in alignment with institutional core themes and strategic directions. Moreover, the Commission applauds the College for its authentic, transparent, and honest engagement in accreditation activities and for demonstrating a high level of integrity throughout the process. The Commission finds laudable the


President Mary F.T. Spilde  
Page Two  
January 28, 2015

College's innovative, creative work resulting in national recognition as a college of distinction in areas such as Achieving the Dream, sustainability, and college leadership. The Commission commends the College for completion of the downtown campus, the work of the library in creating a comprehensive collection and cooperative agreements for lending materials to support the learning and research needs of the institution, and the College's Financial Aid Department for diligently addressing issues related to the College's cohort default rate. Lastly, the Commission applauds the staff of student support programs, such as the Women's Center, Multicultural Center, Veteran's Center, Tutoring, and the Workforce Office for their commitment to the populations served and strong collaborations that leverage available resources.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,

  
Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations  
Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period*

cc: Dr. Maurice Hamington, Executive Dean ✓  
Mr. Pat Albright, Board Chair  
Dr. Jim Middleton, Commissioner, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development

**Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation**  
**Fall 2014**  
**Lane Community College**  
**Recommendations**

1. The evaluation committee recommends that in order to support and document mission fulfillment, that Lane Community College complete planning processes that are purposeful, systematic, integrated, and comprehensive (Standard 3.A).
2. In order to ensure a widely understood and effective system of governance that supports mission fulfillment, the evaluation committee recommends that the College review and clearly define the authority, roles, responsibilities, and communication methods associated with its adopted decision-making structure (Standard 2.A).
3. In order to clearly state, document, and evaluate, and communicate mission fulfillment, the evaluation committee recommends that the College fully develop an institutional effectiveness model that forms the basis for assessing accomplishment of the objectives of its core themes and ensures organizational adaptation and sustainability (Standards 1.B.2 and 5.B).
4. In order to ensure that the programs offered reflect appropriate content and rigor, it is recommended that the College fully engage faculty in developing a periodic and systematic process for assessing student learning at the course, program, and College level (Standards 2.C and 4.A).
5. In order to ensure quality and relevancy of its program and service offerings, the evaluation committee recommends that the College administration, faculty, and staff continue to engage in establishing and implementing comprehensive program and service review processes that are informed by data and connect to planning and institutional effectiveness processes (Standards 2.C and 4.A).
6. In order to reflect non-discrimination in practice and to realize accomplishment of its core themes, core values, and strategic directions, the evaluation committee recommends that the College fully implement the Board of Education policy related to diversity and inclusion (Eligibility Requirement 5 and Standard 2.A.18).
7. In order to ensure that student complaint mechanisms are clearly understood by students and staff, the evaluation committee recommends that the College develop effective methods to communicate and disseminate policy and procedure information (Standard 2.A.15 and 2.A.18).

## *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period Policy*

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation or an eligibility requirement, 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 or eligibility requirement, 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 or eligibility requirement 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 or eligibility requirement. 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.

1997  
2002