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April 9, 2010

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PRESIDENT

Dr. Richard W. Cummins
President
Columbia Basin College
2600 North 20th Avenue
Pasco, WA 99301

Dear President *Rich* Cummins:

At the outset, let me express the Commission's continued appreciation to Columbia Basin College for its good faith participation in the Standards Revision and Implementation Pilot Project. The Commission continues to benefit from the College's contribution in working through the challenges of translating the new Standards for accreditation and the oversight process into practice.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that at its April 1, 2010, meeting, the Executive Committee of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, reaffirmed the accreditation of Columbia Basin College based on the institution's Year Five Report. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

The Commission noted the rigor in which the College approached the Report and engaged in self-examination. The Commission further commends the College for its commitment and serious intent in piloting the implementation of the Commission's new Standards and accreditation process.

In reviewing the institution's Year Five Report, the Commission made the following observations which are being offered to help guide the institution's self-examination in preparation for the Year Seven Report. The Commission encourages the institution to write more succinct narratives aimed at providing more clarity with regard to the extent to which the institution is meeting the Standards for accreditation, and emphasizes the importance of focusing on the institution's findings, that is, outcomes rather than inputs. Moreover, while the number of core themes the institution has identified is substantially appropriate and reasonable in number, the institution should consider revisiting the number of indicators that strategically buttress the core themes. As the institution works toward addressing Standard Five, the Commission stresses the importance of the College engaging in priority setting as a means of being better positioned to assess its own respective mission fulfillment and sustainability. Lastly, the Commission points out the importance of the institution discussing its plans for using results of its assessment efforts for improvement.

The Commission made the following Recommendations based on its review of the institution's Year Five Report.

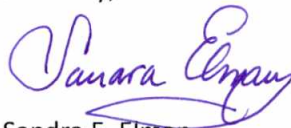
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1. The Commission recommends that the College reconsider and refine the institution's core themes and indicators so that they will better inform planning, decision-making, and resource allocation across the institution (Standard 4.A.4, 4.B.1).
2. The Commission recommends that the College continue to develop means of assessing student learning that will inform planning and practices and improve student achievement (Standard 4.B.2).
3. The Commission recommends that the College continue to develop an approach to program evaluation that links directly to core theme objectives and mission fulfillment (Standard 4.A.2, 4.B.1).

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2010 Year Five Report are areas where Columbia Basin College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

Best wishes for a successful completion of the academic year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

cc: Dr. Deborah R. Meadows, Associate Vice President for Instruction