



July 25, 2022

Dr. Kimberly Perry
Interim President
Bellingham Technical College
3028 Lindbergh Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-1599

Dear President Perry:

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 June 21-24, 2022, concerning the Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Bellingham Technical College. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Finding 1: Fall 2021 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations

The Commission commends Bellingham Technical College for:

1. Its commitment to effective engagement with advisory committees, including review of curriculum, course and program student learning outcomes, and the annual program effectiveness reports for the purposes of continuous improvement.
2. Institutionalizing an inclusive, continuous, broad, and iterative planning process.
3. Its investment in its human capital designing and implementing a transparent participatory governance process that has improved campus communication and trust.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Bellingham Technical College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement a continuous, effective system of evaluation that assesses student support services including advising, and course, program and college student learning outcomes. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;2.G.6;1.C.7)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Sets and articulates meaningful indicators of its goals to define mission fulfillment and to improve its effectiveness in the context of and in comparison with regional and national peer institutions. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.2)
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Close the loop on its planning process by using assessment results to improve institutional effectiveness. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.3)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Differentiates the program learning outcomes for embedded certificates and Associate of Applied Science degrees to ensure appropriate breadth, depth, sequencing, and synthesis of learning. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.2)

- Recommendation 5: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement a comprehensive and consistent system of assessment to evaluate the quality of learning with focus on program level outcomes, general education course outcomes, and campus level student learning outcomes (CLSLOs). (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5;1.C.6)
- Recommendation 6: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement a process to use regional and national peer disaggregated data to develop a set of indicators that are used to inform strategies and allocate resources to mitigate gaps in student achievement and equity. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.2;1.D.3;1.D.4)
- Recommendation 7: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Regularly and systematically evaluate classified and exempt employees based on clearly communicated criteria. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.4)

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2023
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 7: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Fall 2024
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 5: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 6: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2024
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2027
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2028

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

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: Dr. RaeLyn Axlund McBride, Executive Director of Institutional Planning & Advancement
Mr. Bradley Smith, Board Chair
Mr. Michael Meotti, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
Dr. Janice Alexander, Division Chair Science and Engineering, Flathead Valley Community College