



March 3, 2025

Dr. James Lemerond
President
Bellingham Technical College
3028 Lindbergh Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-1599

Dear President Lemerond:

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 January 28-31, 2025, concerning the Fall 2024 Mid-Cycle Review of Bellingham Technical College.

Accreditation

Accept the Report

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Needs Improvement and continued as Recommendation 1: Fall 2024 Mid-Cycle Review
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Needs Improvement
- Recommendation 5: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 6: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Needs Improvement and continued as Recommendation 2: Fall 2024 Mid-Cycle Review
- Recommendation 7: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Needs Improvement

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Bellingham Technical College:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2024 Mid-Cycle Review - Use its mission fulfillment indicators to improve its effectiveness in the context of and in comparison to regional and national peer institutions. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.2)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2024 Mid-Cycle Review - Use its regional and national peer disaggregated data to inform strategies and allocate resources to mitigate student achievement equity gaps. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.3;1.D.4)
- 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 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 2026
 - Recommendation 7: 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
 - Recommendation 1: Fall 2024 Mid-Cycle Review
 - Recommendation 2: Fall 2024 Mid-Cycle Review

- Recommendation 3: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

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. Teresa Rivenes, at trivenes@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Fox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Fox
Interim President

cc: Dr. RaeLyn Axlund McBride, Executive Director of Institutional Planning & Assessment
Ms. Ann McQuade, Board of Trustees Chair
Dr. Alicia Moore, Vice President of Student Affairs, Central Oregon Community College
Mr. Michael Meotti, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council