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January 28, 2015

Dr. Camille Preus
President
Blue Mountain Community College
P.O. Box 100
Pendleton, OR 97801

Dear President Preus:

Camille -

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Blue Mountain 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 addition, the College was to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report and Eligibility Requirement 3. The Commission determined that its expectations with regard to Eligibility Requirement 3 have been met. However, the Commission determined that its expectations with regard to Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report have not been met. Thus the areas of concern are included in Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College submit an addendum to its Fall 2015 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Report to address Recommendations 1, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. Moreover, the Commission requests that the College submit an addendum to its Fall 2017 Mid-Cycle Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 2 and 5 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Fall 2014 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Blue Mountain Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

The Commission commends Blue Mountain Community College for its heightened commitment to student success. Moreover, the Commission applauds the College for its commitment to meeting the educational needs of its extraordinarily widespread, diverse service area through initiatives such as its off-campus sites, well-designed online offerings, corrections programming, partnerships with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and collaboration with local schools. The Commission finds noteworthy the College's responsiveness to the needs of area employers through the collective efforts of faculty and staff in establishing and maintaining strong industry partnerships, expanding existing programs to meet demand, and developing appropriate degree and certificate pathways in response to identified workforce needs. Further, the Commission commends the College's senior leadership for its visible, heartfelt commitment to promoting greater inclusiveness, a deeper sense of shared purpose, and wider opportunities for collaborative efforts across the College.

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community. Lastly, the Commission finds laudable the exemplary work of the College's facilities personnel in maintaining consistently attractive and functional teaching and learning spaces despite the challenges of aging infrastructure and an exceptionally large service area.

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

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Mr. Dan Lange, Assistant to the President for Special Projects
Mr. Ed Taber, Board Chair
Dr. Jim Middleton, Commissioner, Oregon Department of Community Colleges and
Workforce Development

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

1. While recognizing that Blue Mountain Community College is embarking energetically on producing a new comprehensive strategic plan, the evaluation committee recommends the plan be completed as soon as possible in order to provide a meaningful, mission-driven guide for resource allocation, initiative prioritization, and assessment of College progress (Standards 3.A.1, 3.A.3, 3.A.4, 4.A.5, and 5.B.2).
2. While recognizing that Blue Mountain Community College has made significant progress in addressing Recommendation 2 from its fall 2010 report, the evaluation committee recommends that the College redouble its efforts to fully implement and document assessment of course, program, and degree learning outcomes, paying specific attention to assessment of college-wide core competencies, greater part-time faculty engagement, and using the results of assessment efforts to inform academic and learning-support planning and practices (Standards 2.C.1, 2.C.10, 2.C.11, 4.A.4, and 4.B.2).
3. The evaluation committee recommends that the College continue its efforts to define a specific threshold of mission fulfillment, taking care to articulate a meaningful, useful, and defensible rationale for that threshold and its underlying metrics (Standard 1.A.2).
4. The evaluation committee recommends that the College continue to refine the objectives and indicators of all core themes to ensure that they are meaningful, assessable, and verifiable and form the basis for evaluating accomplishments of core theme objectives (Standard 1.B.2).
5. While acknowledging the College's recent, positive efforts to expand collaboration opportunities across employee groups, the evaluation committee recommends that the College take steps to formalize the governance structures and processes that provide for the consideration of faculty views on matters in which they have a direct and reasonable interest, including instructional resource allocation, policy, and institutional effectiveness metrics (Standard 2.A.1).