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February 9, 2012

Dr. Bert Glandon  
President  
College of Western Idaho  
6056 Birch Lane, Suite 200  
Nampa, ID 83687

Dear President Glandon:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that at its January 11-12, 2012, meeting, the Commission granted the College of Western Idaho Candidacy for Accreditation status at the associate degree level. The effective date of Candidacy is January 11, 2012. Congratulations on receiving this recognition.

The College of Western Idaho will be listed as a Candidate for Accreditation on the Commission's website and included in the next issue of *Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education*, published by the American Council on Education.

As a Candidate for Accreditation, the College of Western Idaho is required to: (1) file annual reports with the Commission; (2) submit a Year One Self-Evaluation Report in fall 2012; and (3) submit a Year Three Self-Evaluation Report and a Year Seven Initial Accreditation Self-Evaluation Report, including hosting a committee of Commission representatives in fall 2014 and again in fall 2016, respectively. In preparing those materials, the College is requested to address Recommendations 1 through 5 of the Fall 2011 Comprehensive Initial Candidacy Peer-Evaluation Report in its Fall 2012 Year One Self-Evaluation Report. A copy of these Recommendations is enclosed for your reference. The annual report form will be available online in spring of each year. Requirements for the Year Three Self-Evaluation Report and the Year Seven Self-Evaluation Reports are available on the Commission's website ([www.nwccu.org](http://www.nwccu.org)). Please review carefully the terms of agreement regarding Candidacy status with the Commission (see website under Accreditation Process).

In granting Candidacy for Accreditation status, the Commission expressed serious concern regarding the College's compliance with Standard Two – Resources and Capacity, particularly with regard to the College's resources and capacity to meet the demands of dramatic increases in enrollment, which among other things, have direct consequences for ensuring the long-term sustainability of adequate and qualified personnel. Insofar as effective management of this enrollment phenomenon is critical to the future viability of the College, the Commission requests that the institution's Year One Report be expanded to provide an explication of the institution's growth targets based on realistic assumptions for the next five years and the concomitant impact of the growth in enrollment on the infrastructure of the institution.

The period of candidacy is limited to a maximum of five years provided that the required annual reports and the interim evaluation reports to the Commission indicate that the institution is progressing satisfactorily toward initial accreditation. If initial accreditation appears unlikely, the Commission reserves the right, after due notice, to remove an institution from the list of candidates.

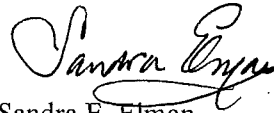
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The College of Western Idaho may apply for initial accreditation at any time within the next five years, but may do so only after consultation with the President of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. If accreditation is not achieved by the end of the five-year period, the institution will be removed from the list of candidate institutions and must wait a minimum of two years before resubmitting an Application for Consideration to the Commission.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the months and years ahead.

Best wishes for a rewarding new year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Rick Aman, Vice President of Instruction  
Mr. Stanley Bastian, Board Chair  
Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education  
Ms. Carol Griffiths, Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation Unit, USDOE  
Mr. Kenneth Von Alt, Editor, *Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education*  
Ms. Jeanne Burke, Editor, Higher Education Publications  
Mr. Paul Basken, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

**Comprehensive Initial Candidacy Peer-Evaluation Report**  
**Fall 2011**  
**College of Western Idaho**  
**Recommendations**

1. While acknowledging that the College of Western Idaho has made progress in developing initial core themes and proposed measures of mission fulfillment, the evaluation committee recommends that the College move aggressively to ensure that CWI's core themes align with clearly articulated and well-supported institutional priorities, that the core theme measures are meaningful, relevant, and assessable, and that the core theme assessment process is fully integrated with the College's planning and evaluation mechanisms (Standards 1.B.2; 3.B.1, 3.B.3.; 4.A.1, 4.A.4 and Eligibility Requirement 23).
2. In order to build on progress already made in initial institutional planning, the committee recommends the College establish an ongoing, systematic, and comprehensive cycle of integrated planning, resource allocation, and evaluation that leads to mission fulfillment as defined by CWI's core themes. Achieving this goal will require a robust system for the collection and analysis of appropriately defined data, as well as mechanisms for meaningful input from faculty and staff (Standards 2.A.1; 3.A.1, 3.A.2, 3.A.3 and Eligibility Requirement 23).
3. The committee recommends that the College of Western Idaho develop and implement plans to appoint full-time faculty and staff sufficient in numbers to accomplish the institution's educational goals (Standard 2.B.1, 2.B.4, 2.B.5, and Eligibility Requirement 10).
4. While the College of Western Idaho has made admirable progress toward acquisition of library materials and enhancing the library's virtual presence, the committee did not find evidence of sufficient library infrastructure, staffing, or holdings to achieve the learning outcomes of CWI's rapidly expanding academic programs. Accordingly, the committee recommends immediate action to increase library services, staffing, and materials to adequately support programs at all campus locations (Standard 2.E.1 and Eligibility Requirement 13).
5. While the College of Western Idaho has met the demands of rapid growth, program acquisition and development, policy and governance development, and financial planning in a remarkable fashion, the committee recommends that the College move promptly to develop and adopt a realistic plan for long-range sustainability that will address enrollment management, staff retention and development, fiscal stability, and support services that will enhance student progression and completion (Standard 5.B and Eligibility Requirement 24).