



February 27, 2023

Haven Gourneau  
President  
Fort Peck Community College  
605 Indian Avenue  
Poplar, MT 59255

Dear Ms. Gourneau:

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 25-27, 2023, concerning the Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Fort Peck Community 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 Fort Peck Community College for:

1. Its commitment and leadership in strengthening the cultural identity of and serving as the cornerstone for the Assiniboine and Sioux peoples.
2. Its dedication to the success of all students, as modeled through personal connections, the Cultural Liaison, Wa Wo Giya team, technology assistance, and culturally-responsive instruction and programs, among many others.
3. Sustaining a comprehensive college and community library, which serves as a gathering place for children to elders, houses Tribal archives, and works to preserve language, culture, and history of the Fort Peck Tribes.
4. Its creative use of COVID funding to provide comprehensive student supports, grow institutional capacity, and expand technology resources.

#### **Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that Fort Peck Community College:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Engage in a regular and systematic process to assess its core themes, strategic plan, academic programs, and support services, with the goal of aligning institutional resources to improve student learning and achievement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Develop a threshold for its definition of mission fulfillment. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.2)

- Recommendation 3: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Implement an on-going and meaningful process to assess all program learning outcomes and general education outcomes and use the results to improve student learning. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5;1.C.6;1.C.7)
- Recommendation 4: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Establish regional and national peer institutions and share indicators of student achievement (disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, gender, socioeconomic status, first generation college student, and any other institutionally meaningful categories) to assess its progress in reducing equity gaps. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.2)
- Recommendation 5: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Use its regional and national peer disaggregated data to set benchmarks of student achievement and publish and share that information widely to effectively inform institutional planning, decision-making, and resource allocation. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.3)

### Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2024
  - Recommendation 1: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 2: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 3: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 4: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 5: Fall 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2025
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2028
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2029

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. Selena Grace, at [sgrace@nwccu.org](mailto:sgrace@nwccu.org).

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

cc: Ms. Carrie Schumacher, Assessment Officer  
Mr. Robert McAnally, Board Chairman  
Dr. Alicia Moore, Vice President of Student Affairs, Central Oregon Community College  
Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System