July 25, 2022

Dr. Adrien Bennings
President
Portland Community College
12000 SW 49th Avenue
Portland, OR 97219

Dear Dr. Bennings:

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 Portland 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

- Recommendation 2: Spring 2015 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2015 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled
- Finding 1: Spring 2021 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

Commendations

The Commission commends Portland Community College for:

1. Its commitment to implement major institutional reforms in service to its central focus on improving student attainment¬†and closing equity gaps.
2. Its unified dedication to the values of equity, social justice, and environmental sustainability.
3. Prioritizing a focus on student access and success amidst a world-wide pandemic, social unrest, and other societal challenges.
4. Its deep engagement with its community, building productive and meaningful relationships with agencies, enterprises, and residents to better reach and serve students.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Portland Community College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continue to integrate its planning processes (e.g., strategic plan, equity plan, and other planning efforts) and their associated metrics to ensure they are systematic in defining mission fulfillment and facilitating continuous improvement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Further refine its use of disaggregated data from its planning processes to inform and implement strategies to guide planning, decision making, and allocation of resources. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.3)

- Recommendation 3: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Fully demonstrate that the results of its assessment efforts are used to inform academic and learning-support planning practices to continuously improve student learning outcomes and student support services. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.7)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Complete a comprehensive alignment of policies, procedures, and administrative guidelines that are clearly stated, easily understandable, readily accessible, and regularly reviewed. (2020 Standard(s) 2.C)

Future Evaluations

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

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. Selena Grace, at sgrace@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Katy Ho, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Mr. Mohamed Alyajouri, Board Chair
Mr. Juan Baez-Arevalo, Director, Office of Student Access and Completion
Dr. Jeff Wagnitz, Special Assistant to the President, Bates Technical College