



February 12, 2021

Dr. Joyce Helens  
President  
Great Basin College  
1500 College Parkway  
Elko, NV 89801

Dear President Helens:

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 13-15, 2021, concerning the Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Great Basin 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

#### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Great Basin College for:

1. Its atmosphere of caring and collegiality. It is evident that interactions between the students and both faculty and staff are very positive. Students cite time and again all the assistance they receive from both faculty and staff when issues or questions arise. Administrators, faculty, staff and students alike exhibit a deep sense of pride for this institution, its people, and its mission.
2. Robust information technology systems that facilitate realistic distance learning applications, that are universally praised by users, and that served as a resource that promoted rapid adaptation for students needing to continue their coursework during the 2020 pandemic. In alignment with information technology, the small distance learning team manages to provide thorough and comprehensive support for high-quality remote instruction in both synchronous and asynchronous modalities.

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

The Commission recommends that Great Basin College:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Develop a regular, coherent, and comprehensive program of assessment of learning outcomes that standardizes and memorializes course-level outcomes, that explicitly maps course-level outcomes to program-level, institutional and/or general education outcomes, and that is used deliberately and intentionally for institutional planning and resource allocation. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.2;1.C.5;1.C.6;1.C.7)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Establish clear goals, objectives, and indicators, including widely available disaggregated data, to define mission fulfillment and develop an ongoing and systematic institutional evaluation and planning process to inform and refine its effectiveness, assign resources, and improve student learning and achievement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;1.B.2;1.B.3;1.B.4;1.C.7;1.D.2;1.D.3;1.D.4)

### Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2022
  - Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2023
  - Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2026
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2027

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. Ron Larsen, at [rlarsen@nwccu.org](mailto:rlarsen@nwccu.org).

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

cc: Mr. William Brown, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness  
Dr. Bryce Humpherys, Vice President of Learning and Student Success, Big Bend Community College