



November 13, 2020

Ron Larsen, PhD
Sr. Vice President
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
8060 165th Avenue Northeast
Redmond, WA 98052

Great Basin College—7-Year Cycle Report and Peer Evaluation
Institutional Response

Dear Dr. Larsen,

First and foremost, Great Basin College wants to thank NWCCU and the peer evaluation team for their hard work and consideration during this most unusual site visit. With new standards and a pandemic, the communication, professionalism, and feedback of all involved in the visit was greatly appreciated.

Of course, data and evidence can support more than one narrative. While the peer evaluation team did an admirable job coming to understand our institution in a brief period of time, GBC feels that the data and evidence, at points, support a narrative the college would be remiss not to clarify.

The first point where this assertion needs to be made is with respect to Standard One. The team correctly identified previous deficiencies in closing the loop. However, GBC would refer to the multiple measures both created and imposed by the state system as creating a multitude of indicators that were leading to much data but little action—something that was exacerbated by many administrative changes in a short time span. While full remediation of the situation requires a new strategic plan (the current plan is 7 years old), GBC adopted a Closing the Loop plan to create a needed set of actionable data reported annually and held to account. We do not want the fact that GBC recognizes this deficiency and has taken steps to overcome it to be lost in the conclusions of the peer evaluation report.

Additionally, when referring to the inclusiveness of the budgeting process, GBC does use data: it is used to forecast registration and other student fees. We also use this data to help project weighted student credit hours for the state's funding formula.

Ultimately, this was not a normal visit—nor could it be, all things considered. NWCCU, the peer evaluation team, and GBC are all on the same page for what needs to be done. GBC would like to emphasize, though, that the process for getting where we want and need to be is already well underway. Also, working with the new standards—before a guide was available—was challenging, and GBC appreciates the peer evaluation team recognizing this issue. Come the midcycle report, the fruits of this work will be ripe, and GBC expects to

ELKO MAIN CAMPUS
1500 College Parkway
Elko, NV 89801
775.738.8493 • fax 775.738.8771

ELY CENTER
2115 Bobcat Drive
Ely, NV 89301
775.289.3589 • fax 775.289.3599

PAHRUMP VALLEY CENTER
551 East Calvada Boulevard
Pahrump, NV 89048
775.727.2000 • fax 775.727.2014

WINNEMUCCA CENTER
5490 Kluncky Canyon Road
Winnemucca, NV 89445
775.623.4824 • fax 775.623.1812

demonstrate a unified vision for the college's mission, assessable down to the course level, engaging all stakeholders, and responsive to marginalized and underrepresented populations identified through disaggregated data. We will be well into our new strategic plan, designed for a shorter time span, to be more flexible, and more prepared for revision based on evidence.

We look forward to working with the commission during this process of continuous improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Helens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joyce Helens, President