



February 12, 2021

Dr. John Mosby
President
Highline College
2400 South 240th Street
Des Moines, WA 98198

Dear President Mosby:

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 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability of Highline 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 Highline College for:

1. Actively cultivating an equity and inclusion mindset which is demonstrated in thoughtful conversations with each other, commitment to the work of the Equity Task Force, and through robust engagement in the local community.
2. Transparency in communications and support regarding assessment, budget, and COVID-19 response.
3. Executing a reorganization in Academic and Student Affairs that elevated the integration of instruction and services for non-credit students and community members that experience the greatest barriers to education.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Highline College:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continue to develop emerging systems of assessment to evaluate the quality of learning in its programs and through assessment of its core competencies, and to use the results of its assessment efforts to continuously improve student learning. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5;1.C.6;1.C.7)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continue to develop systems of data collection and use that data to inform planning, decision-making, and allocation of resources to support student success and mitigate perceived gaps in achievement and equity. (2020 Standard(s) 2.G.1;1.D.3;1.D.4)
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Develop a comprehensive plan to focus divergent priorities, define a future direction for the institution, and to serve as a foundation for gauging long-term financial stability and sustainability. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.2)

Future Evaluations

- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2023
 - Recommendation 1: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 2: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 3: Fall 2020 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2026
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 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. Mac Powell, at mpowell@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
President

cc: Dr. Emily Lardner, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Sili Savusa, Board Chair
Dr. Jeff Fox, President Emeritus,