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January 22, 2019

Dr. Timothy Stokes  
President  
South Puget Sound Community College  
2011 Mottman Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98512-6292

Dear President Stokes:

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 9-11, 2019, concerning the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of South Puget Sound 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.

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends South Puget Sound Community College for:

1. Their assistance in the preparation of helpful evaluation materials and for their support and candor through the accreditation visit.
2. The overall exemplary appearance of the buildings and grounds and for improvements to technology within the classroom and support facilities.
3. Its support for student success through fundraising and for developing a Student Success Fund Grant, which directly impact students in need (e.g., Completion Fund, Testing Fund, Tuition, Books & Fees Fund, Emergency Fund, and Tools & Supplies Fund).
4. Its effective research, collaboration and ongoing commitment to meaningfully respond to the diverse backgrounds and needs of students through programs and services such as the One Stop desk, HDEV 101, IGNITE and library textbook lending program.

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

The Commission recommends that South Puget Sound Community College:

1. Review the objectives for its core themes and develop meaningful, assessable and verifiable indicators of achievement that form the basis for evaluating mission fulfillment and that support decision-making in the planning and allocation of resources (Standards 1.B.2, 4.A.1 and 4.B 1).
2. Develop an effective, regular, and comprehensive system of evaluation for student achievement and the assessment of student learning, and utilize the results of these efforts to plan, support, and enhance future practice (Standard 4.A.3 and 4.B.2).

**Required Follow-Up**

- Address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Fall 2021 Mid-Cycle Report.

**Future Evaluations**

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Spring 2020.
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation and visit in Fall 2021 with an addendum to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation and visit in Fall 2025.

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, Senior Fellow Dr. Mac Powell.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:rb

cc: Dr. Michelle Andreas, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Mr. Dough Mah, Chair, South Puget Sound Community College Board of Trustees  
Dr. Ryan Thomas, Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation  
Committee Chair