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July 17, 2014

Dr. Pamela J. Transue
President
Tacoma Community College
6501 South 19th Street
Tacoma, WA 98466-6100

Dear President Transue: *Pamela*

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Tacoma Community College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which included an addendum to address Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Spring 2012 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College submit an Ad Hoc Report without a visit in Spring 2017 to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report. The Spring 2017 Ad Hoc Report should be separate from the College's regularly scheduled Spring 2017 Mid-Cycle Evaluation Report. In making this request, the Commission finds that Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report is an area where Tacoma Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

Moreover, the Commission revised Recommendation 2 which addresses external financial audits. Recommendation 2 now states:

The evaluation committee recommends that for each year of operation, the College undergo an external financial audit and that the results from such audits, including findings and management letter recommendations, be considered in a timely, appropriate and comprehensive manner by the Board of Trustees (Eligibility Requirement 19 and Standard 2.F.7).

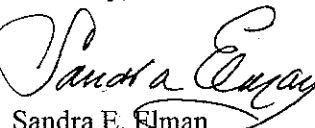
The Commission also requests that the College address Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation in an Ad Hoc Report without a visit in Fall 2015. The Commission determined that Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report is an area where Tacoma Community College does not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period*, the Commission requires that Tacoma Community College take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2014 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Peer-Evaluation Report is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period. A copy of the Recommendations and the Commission Policy are enclosed for your reference.

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The Commission commends the College for creating a broad-based culture that encourages and nourishes innovative projects that fully integrate academic and student services to improve student learning and engagement. Further, the Commission finds laudable the genuine engagement and authentic culture of assessment and continuous improvement regarding the College's mission and core themes as supported by the Board of Directors, administration, faculty and staff. The Commission commends the College's Finance Team for creating a budget status and development process with broad participation by all employee groups. The Commission applauds the College's library staff and faculty for creating and engaging in an evidence-based culture for continuous self-study and improvement. The Commission finds noteworthy the resilience of Financial Aid Services for effectively addressing the surge in application demands. Lastly, the Commission commends the College's Associate Student Body for its active engagement throughout the institution and student veterans who reach out to all generations of students to help them navigate "college to completion."

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a productive 2014-2015 academic year.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations
Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance*
Within Specified Period

cc: Dr. Tod Treat, Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs ✓
Mr. Chad Wright, J.D., Chair, Board of Trustees
Mr. Marty Brown, Executive Director, Washington State Board for Community
and Technical Colleges

Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation
Spring 2014
Tacoma Community College
Recommendations

1. The evaluation committee recommends that the College seek strategies to address the workload created by the 15 percent increase in enrollment since 2009, coupled with the reduced staffing that occurred when employees retired or resigned and were not replaced due to the double-digit reduction in state funding since 2007-2008. The College's increased emphasis on creating an environment of continuous improvement and a culture of assessment and evidence may generate additional workload. The institution must employ a sufficient number of qualified personnel to maintain its support and operations functions (Standard 2.B.1).

2. The evaluation committee recommends that for each year of operation, the College undergo an external financial audit and that the results from such audits, including findings and management letter recommendations, be considered in a timely, appropriate and comprehensive manner by the Board of Trustees (Eligibility Requirement 19 and Standard 2.F.7).