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July 24, 2018

Dr. Kirk Schulz  
President  
Washington State University  
P.O. Box 641048  
Pullman, WA 99164-1048

Dear President Schulz:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation of Washington State University by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 27-29, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Based on these materials and deliberations, the Commissioners took the following actions:

**Accreditation**

- Reaffirm Accreditation.

**Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation**

- Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report is fulfilled and no further action is required.
- Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report is continued as new Recommendation 4 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.

**Recommendations:** Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation In Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that the University:

1. Engage in comprehensive planning that is informed by the collection of appropriately defined data, which can be disaggregated to identify differences among campuses, learning modalities, and other subdivisions of this large and complex institution (3.A.3).
2. Expand plans to include fully comprehensive emergency preparedness and contingency planning for continuity and recovery of operations at all campuses (3.A.5).
3. Utilize results of core theme assessments and results of assessments of programs and services more consistently for improvement by informing planning, decision making, and allocation of resources and capacity (3.B.3, 4.B.1).
4. Incorporate student learning outcomes assessment findings into the evaluation of mission fulfillment (1.B.2)

### **Required Follow-Up**

- Address Recommendations 2 and 4 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report as an addendum to the Mission and Core Themes Self-Evaluation Report in Fall 2019.
- Address Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report in an addendum to the Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report in Spring 2021.

### **Commendations:** Spring 2018 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends Washington State University in particular for the following:

1. The Administration's ability to rapidly build a reputation for transparency and inclusiveness in decision-making, and the administration, faculty, staff, and students for working together to maintain open communication.
2. Fostering a strong *esprit de corps* among its students, alumni, faculty, and staff.
3. Effective initiatives to improve student access and success, particularly that of underrepresented groups, through coordinated and collaborative efforts of Enrollment Management and Student Financial Services, Student Affairs, the Office of the Provost and the Academic Success and Career Center, and other units across the University. The Student Success Council is recognized for facilitating this work.
4. Assessment of student learning outcomes, especially the assessment of the learning outcomes of the UCORE general education requirements. The Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning is recognized for its leadership in this work.
5. For planning to revitalize classrooms to serve today's learners. A notable result is The Spark, a state-of-the-art facility, which enables faculty to use innovative technology to help motivate students to engage deeply in learning.
6. Focusing research on the Grand Challenges of sustaining health, sustainable resources, opportunity and equity, smart systems, and national security, using interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to serve society.

### **Future Evaluations**

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Fall 2019 to include an Addendum to address Recommendations 2 and 4 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2021 to include an Addendum to address Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report.
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Self-Evaluation and visit in Spring 2025.

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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 NWCCU.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

SR:rb

cc: Dr. Erica Austin, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Mr. Ron Sims, Chair, Washington State University Board of Trustees  
Dr. Susan Henrichs, Spring 2018 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Committee Chair