



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052-3981
425 558 4224
Fax: 425 376 0596
www.nwccu.org

January 29, 2010

Dr. Bert Glandon
President
College of Western Idaho
6056 Birch Lane, Suite 200
Nampa, ID 83687



Dear President ~~Glandon~~ Bert:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to inform you that at its January 11-13, 2010, meeting, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accepted College of Western Idaho's Application for Consideration for Candidacy. Congratulations.

As a result of this action, the College may now proceed with a comprehensive self-study and at the conclusion of the self-study, host an onsite visit by an evaluation committee for consideration for Candidacy. Please refer to pages 8-20 of the enclosed *Accreditation Handbook* (2003 edition) for information on the self-study process and evaluation committee visit. The self-study should be commensurate with and reflect the current stage of institutional development. Please refer to the Standards and Guide for Self-Study section of the *Accreditation Handbook*, pages 25-97. Although an institution preparing for Candidacy is not expected to have the maturity and stability of an accredited institution, the Standards and Guide for Self-Study do provide directives and a clear basis for the institution to demonstrate how it is organized, staffed, and supported to accomplish its purposes and to demonstrate its potential to achieve accreditation within five years.

As you may know, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities has revised its Standards for Accreditation and its Eligibility Requirements. The revised Standards went into effect January 2010. The Commission staff will work with the College of Western Idaho as the institution prepares for its Candidacy evaluation visit in utilizing the revised Standards and Eligibility Requirements.

Following completion and submission of the self-study, which may not occur earlier than one year or later than three years after the Commission has accepted the institution's Application for Consideration for Candidacy, an onsite evaluation is conducted. Accordingly, the onsite visit for the College of Western Idaho may be conducted no sooner than fall 2011 and no later than fall 2013. At least six months prior to completion of its self-study, the College must secure approval from this office before the visit can be scheduled. The self-study report is to be completed and ready for mailing at least eight weeks prior to the campus visit. Copies of the self-study are to be mailed from the College to the Commission and to each evaluation committee member. The size of the evaluation committee will depend on the institution's enrollment and number of locations where the programs are offered. The current fee for a Candidacy evaluation is \$1,500 per evaluator.

Dr. Bert Glandon
Page Two
January 29, 2010

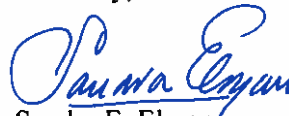
The process of self-study is critically important to the institution's successful progress toward accreditation. It is a matter that should be taken very seriously by the College. It is helpful if the institution views the self-study as an analysis by the board, the faculty, the staff and other stakeholders of the College's resources and effectiveness in fulfilling its mission and goals. In the self-study, faculty, administrators, and the governing board indicate the vision they have for the institution and reflect on their own appraisal of the institution's present accomplishments and potential. The goal of the self-study should be to understand and assess the College's performance in relation to published outcomes and results. Normally, a Commission staff member conducts a preliminary visit to assist the institution in preparation for self-study. I have requested that Dr. Ron Baker, Executive Vice President, conduct the preliminary visit to College of Western Idaho.

The responsibility of the evaluation committee in conducting the Candidacy visit will be to determine whether or not College of Western Idaho has clearly demonstrated that it meets the Commission's Eligibility Requirements. In its action, the Commission determined that the College appeared to meet the Eligibility Requirements for Candidacy based upon its written application. After validating that judgment, additional tasks of the committee will be to determine that the institution: (1) appears adequately organized, staffed and sufficiently supported to offer the educational programs and services as published in the College's catalog in order to meet its purposes; (2) appears to have the potential for meeting enrollment projections, financial projections, and for achieving institutional stability in order to qualify for accreditation within the five-year Candidacy period; and (3) appears to have the potential to meet all accreditation standards and related policies within the five-year period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Baker for assistance as the College proceeds with its initial self-study.

Best wishes for a rewarding year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Accreditation Handbook (2003 edition)

cc: Dr. Mike Rush, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education
Mr. Guy Hurlbutt, Chairperson