



January 24, 2018

Ms. Cory Sangrey-Billy
Interim President and Dean of Academics
Stone Child College
8294 Upper Box Elder Road
Box Elder, MT 59521

Dear Dean Sangrey-Billy:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation of Stone Child College by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on January 10-12, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institutional 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.

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

Accreditation

- Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in This Evaluation

- Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer Evaluation Report is fulfilled.
- Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Spring 2013 Year Three Evaluation Report are fulfilled.

Recommendations: Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that the institution:

1. Develop meaningful, assessable, and verifiable indicators of achievement for all core theme objectives. The indicators should form the basis for determination of mission fulfillment and be reflective of an ethos of continuous improvement (Standard 1.B.2).

2. Take prompt action to ensure all workforce degrees and certificates of 30 semester credits or more in length contain a recognizable core of related instruction or general education with identified outcomes in the areas of communication, computation, and human relations that align with and support program goals or intended outcomes (Standard 2.C.9).
3. More directly align Core Theme assessment with the outcomes assessed as part of the College's strategic planning processes. Since the core theme outcomes are directly related to the institution's mission fulfillment, the connection between the assessments related to core themes and the assessments related to strategic planning needs to be made evident (Standards 3.B.3, 4.A.6, 4.B.1).

Required Follow-Up

- Submit an Ad Hoc Report in Fall 2018 to address Recommendation 2 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.
- Submit an Addendum to the Spring 2019 *Mission and Core Themes* Report to address Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.
- Submit an Addendum to the Fall 2020 Mid-Cycle Report to address Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.

Commendations: Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends Stone Child College in particular for the following:

1. The Commission commends the pervasive sense of love and ethos of caring that drives the mission at Stone Child College. All members of the evaluation team noted the generosity and compassion and commitment to student success among faculty and staff at all levels. Despite being stretched thin, the hard-working SCC employees exhibit a remarkable commitment to serving students and their community and one another.
2. The Commission commends the leadership--including the Board, the Elders, and Interim President Cory Sangrey-Billy, and all faculty and staff--for the courage, empathy, and perspective needed to effectively solve the challenges facing this small tribal college dedicated to preserving the culture and language of the people they serve.
3. The College's buildings and grounds reflect the pride that the facilities staff demonstrate in serving students and the community; each site is welcoming, well cared for, and reflective of the quality programs and services offered.
4. The Commission commends the College for the excellent collections and services that are provided by the library to the SCC students, faculty, staff and community.
5. The Commission commends the extent to which the College encourages and provides professional development. The staff reported feeling that they have opportunities for growth with the resources that they need to fulfill their roles, duties, and responsibilities. This commitment is reflected in both innovative strategies to provide onsite development and is evidenced in departmental budget resource allocations.
6. The Commission commends the faculty and student support staff for the efficacy of advising students and making sure that students have a clear path to achieve their educational goals. Students expressed that they knew exactly what they need to complete their educational plan and had access to advisors who went above and beyond to get them information.

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Future Evaluations

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Spring 2019
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation in Fall 2020
- Year Seven Evaluation in Fall 2024

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,



Marlene Moore
President

MM/rb

cc: Mr. Theodore Whitford, Board Chair
Dr. Richard Cummins, Chair, Evaluation Committee