



July 25, 2022

Stephanie Erdmann  
Dean/CEO  
Great Falls College Montana State University  
2100 16th Avenue South  
Great Falls, MT 59405-4909

Dear Dr. Erdmann:

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 June 21-24, 2022, concerning the Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Great Falls College Montana State University. 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

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

- Finding 1: Spring 2021 Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review - Fulfilled

#### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Great Falls College Montana State University for:

1. Establishing a collaborative and supportive environment focused on students.
2. Being innovative, flexible, and responsive to community workforce needs, expanding access to relevant programs, and intentionally scheduling courses and programs to increase student success.
3. Its expansion of remote instruction, support services, and engagement activities during the pandemic.

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

The Commission recommends that Great Falls College Montana State University:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continue to develop an ongoing and systematic evaluation and inclusive planning process to inform and refine its effectiveness, assign resources, and improve student learning and achievement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1;1.B.3)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Widely publish and use disaggregated indicators of student achievement to identify and mitigate gaps in achievement and equity through planning, decision making, and allocation of resources. (2020 Standard(s) 1.D.3;1.D.4)

#### **Future Evaluations**

- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2025

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2022 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2028
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2029

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

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, Dr. Gita Bangera, at [gbangera@nwccu.org](mailto:gbangera@nwccu.org).

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

cc: Dr. Mandy Wright, Director of Teaching and Learning Innovation  
Mr. Casey Lozar, Chair, Montana Board of Regents  
Mr. Clayton T. Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System  
Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Senior Instructional Dean, Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Division,  
Lane Community College