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January 22, 2010

Dr. James Gaudino
President
Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear President Gaudino: ^{Tim}

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Central Washington University has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

The following actions taken by the Board of Commissioners are based on the standards and process in effect at the time of the evaluation visit. You will be notified under separate cover of any modifications to these actions resulting from the conversion to the new standards and process.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. In the case of Central Washington University, the Commission requests that the institution submit a focused interim report and host a visit in fall 2011 to address Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Evaluation Report are areas where Central Washington University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but needs improvement.

In the unlikely event the Commission should conclude that an institution is in danger of being unable to fulfill its mission and goals or to continue to meet the Eligibility Requirements or Standards, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution submit a report or host one or more evaluators for a special review.

The Commission commends the University for the high level of civic engagement by faculty, staff, and students which provides significant benefits to the community and fosters positive student development. These efforts, focused on addressing human and environmental issues, are consonant with the University's mission and goals. Moreover, the Commission applauds the University on its high level of commitment to enhancing utility operations and its pursuit of cost-effective and sustainable alternative energy sources resulting in significant reductions in energy consumption during a period when building space has substantially increased. Further, the Commission finds laudable the quality and attractiveness

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of the University's physical infrastructure on the Ellensburg campus and the University Centers, which provide a positive student-centered learning environment. Lastly, the Commission commends the University for its sustained commitment to meeting the educational needs of place-bound and work-bound students through its University Centers, which represent an innovative model of higher education and have extended the reach of the University to serve an increasingly diverse student population.

Again, congratulations on receiving this recognition.

Best wishes for a rewarding year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Elman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Wayne Quirk, Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Sid Morrison, Board Chair
Ms. Ann Daley, Executive Director, Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board

Comprehensive Evaluation Report
Fall 2009
Central Washington University
Recommendations

1. The Evaluation Committee recommends that Central Washington University **coordinate and integrate its budgeting, planning and evaluation processes** in a systematic and clearly defined manner that is effectively communicated to all stakeholders. These efforts are necessary to help identify institutional priorities for resource allocation in a period of financial uncertainty (Standard 1.B.4 and 1.B.5).
2. The Evaluation Committee recommends that Central Washington University **enhance its overall capacity for institutional research** to define and analyze data in a consistent and systematic manner for sharing with all its constituencies in order to support effective and timely decision-making (Standard 6.C.7).
3. Central Washington University has made substantial progress in recent years in the development of its educational assessment plan and activities. However, the Committee recommends that CWU **more thoroughly and consistently implement its assessment plan** to ensure that the cycle of review is completed and that modifications based upon feedback mechanisms lead to **improvement in teaching and learning**. These efforts will be especially applicable to the **general education program** (Standard 2.B).

