

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

FEB 03 2009

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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

January 30, 2009

Dr. Thomas L. Purce
President
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Way N.W.
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear President Purce:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of The Evergreen State College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2008 Comprehensive Evaluation. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. Each institution is required to conduct a self-study and be visited by a full evaluation committee at least once every ten years, and during the fifth year, the College is to submit an interim report and be visited by one or more Commission representatives. In the case of The Evergreen State College, the Commission requests that the institution submit a progress report in fall 2010 to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2008 Comprehensive Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In reaffirming the institution's accreditation, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Fall 2008 Comprehensive Evaluation Report are areas where The Evergreen State College substantially meets the Commission's criteria for accreditation, but need 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, Standards or related Policies for accreditation, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution receive an evaluation committee for a special review.

The Commission commends the students, faculty, and staff of the College for the innovative structure and effectiveness of its educational programs and for the resultant inspiring degree to which the College's students reflect institutional values focused on engaged inquiry, active learning, and community service. Moreover, the Commission applauds the College faculty and staff for their student-centered approach to learning, which provides broad access to campus resources and grants autonomy for students to direct their educational experience. Further, the Commission finds laudable the College's significant investment in physical resources to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff in support of their teaching and learning experiences. In addition, the Commission commends the students, faculty, and staff of the College's Tacoma Program and their collective commitment to extending the educational opportunity and service to communities and students beyond the Olympia campus. The Commission commends the College's nationally recognized Master in Teaching program, the Evergreen Center for Educational Improvement, the Master of Education program, the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of

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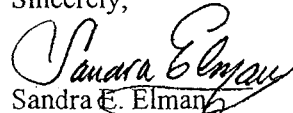
Undergraduate Education, the Writing Center and the Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning Center for their quality and their respective contributions to the intellectual lives of Evergreen students. Lastly, the Commission commends the College for its support of programs and centers providing access to quality education, research and support for tribal work of the Native American populations of the Pacific Northwest and the nation.

Again, congratulations on receiving this recognition. Please feel free to contact me regarding your thoughts or suggestions for improving the comprehensive evaluation process and for any assistance we may provide the institution.

We will write in spring 2010 regarding the fall 2010 progress report.

Best wishes for a rewarding year.

Sincerely,


Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:mf

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Don Bantz, Academic Vice President and Provost ✓
Mr. Paul Winters, Board Chair
Ms. Ann Daley, Executive Director, Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board

Comprehensive Evaluation Report
Fall 2008
The Evergreen State College
Recommendations

1. The Committee recommends that The Evergreen State College develop a more streamlined, systematic method of collecting curricular and co-curricular assessment data. Attention to analysis, storage, and wide sharing of the data will better inform the College's teaching, learning and program-planning practices. Though the College has demonstrated advances in assessment and has collected large amounts of valuable information, it would benefit from more clarity and greater accessibility of this information (Policy 2.2).

2. The Committee recommends that The Evergreen State College strengthen the teaching and documentation of the natural sciences, mathematics, and fine arts as parts of a substantial and coherent program of general education. The College has made progress in the documentation of general education since the previous accreditation visit and has implemented a program entitled "The Six Expectations of an Evergreen Graduate." General education is well documented, specifically in the humanities and social sciences and in critical thinking, writing and speaking. Though some progress has occurred in fine arts, science and math, more focused teaching and clearly embedded curriculum is required to fulfill these areas (Policy 2.1).

3. The Committee recommends that The Evergreen State College work carefully to assess its shared governance structures as it responds to the changing conditions identified in the self-study: growth, workload and compensation, succession, and complexity. The College should strive to retain and strengthen cooperative working relationships, coordination across units, open communication, and goal attainment. In the future it will be important to address the impact of collective bargaining on the quality and effectiveness of the institution (Standard 6.C.6; Policy 6.2).