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July 20, 2015

Dr. Michael J. Simon
President
Dawson Community College
Box 421
Glendive, MT 59330

Dear President ~~Simon~~ *Michael*:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Dawson Community College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2015 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report and to again address Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report. The Commission determined that its expectations regarding Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report have been met.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College submit an Ad Hoc Report with a visit in Spring 2016 to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. Moreover, the Commission requests that the College submit an Ad Hoc Report in Spring 2018 to address Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making these requests, the Commission finds that Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Dawson Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. In addition, the Commission determined that Recommendation 2 of the Spring 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report is now substantially in compliance with the Commission's criteria for accreditation.

However, the Commission determined that Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report do not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Dawson Community College take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

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The Commission commends Dawson Community College for its extraordinary commitment to student services and broad-based efforts by all employees to promote student success. Moreover, the Commission finds laudatory the College leadership, faculty, staff, and students for their extensive, collaborative, and committed work toward meeting the Standards for accreditation during an abbreviated period of time. Lastly, the Commission commends the College for creating a pervasive culture that encourages and nourishes involvement from all constituencies in institutional planning and ongoing improvement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a rewarding 2015-2016 academic year.

Sincerely,



Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosures: Recommendations
Commission Policy, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period*

cc: Dr. Marsha Riley, Interim Assistant Vice President
Mr. Chad Knutson, Board of Trustees, Chair
Mr. Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System