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July 20, 2015

Dr. Susan J. Wolff
Dean/CEO
Great Falls College Montana State University
2100 16th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405-4909

Dear Dean Wolff: *Susan*

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Great Falls College Montana State University 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. The Commission determined that its expectations regarding Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2012 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report have been met.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission rescinded Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report and renumbered the remaining Recommendations. In addition, the Commission requests that the College submit its Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Report in Spring 2016. The Commission further requests that the College submit an addendum to its Spring 2018 Mid-Cycle Self-Evaluation Report to address newly renumbered Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

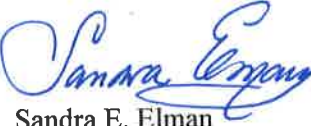
In taking these actions, the Commission finds that newly renumbered Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Great Falls College Montana State University is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

The Commission commends the College for its commitment to provide updated technology systems and the infrastructure to support institutional technology for administrative, instructional, and student services. Moreover, the Commission applauds the College for its active engagement with community organizations, business and industry, and school districts to respond to the educational, workforce development, economic, and social needs of the community it serves. Further, the College is to be lauded for creating instructional facilities and labs that provide hands-on learning to enhance and expand student learning in a variety of programs and for its effective use of resources to expand facilities to serve business/industry/community needs. The Commission finds noteworthy the College's development of an organizational structure that supports and enhances a seamless transition from developmental to college-level coursework. Lastly, the Commission commends the College for its ongoing commitment to an inclusive, transparent, and broad-based organizational planning structure as demonstrated by CPBAC.

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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

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Heidi Pasek, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Waded Cruzado, President, Montana State University
Mr. Paul Tuss, Regent
Mr. Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System

Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation*
Spring 2015
Great Falls College Montana State University
Recommendations
(Revised and Renumbered)

1. The evaluation committee recommends that the College review the formative measures it uses to assess core themes, strategic priorities, Common Ground, and the Eight Abilities and develop a summative assessment framework that could be effectively used as evidence to assess mission fulfillment (Standards 1.B.2, 2.C.1, 4.A., and 5.A.).
2. The evaluation committee recommends that the College rewrite the Eight Abilities in assessable language, and then specifically assess them using both direct and indirect measures of student learning. Moreover, the results of those assessments should be used to demonstrate continuous improvement (Standards 2.C.1, 4.A.4, and 4.B.2).
3. The evaluation committee recommends that the College develop and implement a regular evaluation process to assess the effectiveness of its academic advising program (Standard 2.D.10).