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July 20, 2015

Ms. Julie Huckestein President Chemeketa Community College P.O. Box 14007 Salem, OR 97309-7070

Dear President Huckestein:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Chemeketa Community College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2015 Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College expand its Spring 2016 Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

The Commission finds that Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Chemeketa Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. The Commission did, however, express concern with regard to the College's participation in the Willamette Promise as pertains to Standard 2.C.3 (Recommendation 2). While the Commission concurs that the Willamette Promise is worthy; nevertheless, it has the potential of pushing an increasing portion of collegiate studies to the high schools without strong evidence that the high schools are appropriately positioned to sustain such an increased burden. As such, the Commission encourages the College to be mindful of the importance of ensuring that the Willamette Promise curriculum is commensurate with college-level curricula.

The Commission commends the College for its broadly shared commitment to serving students and communities throughout its service area. Moreover, the Commission finds noteworthy the College's well designed and beautifully maintained physical facilities on the main campus and at its outreach centers. The Commission applauds the College for its proactive and consistent approach in navigating the challenging state budget situation during a time of leadership transition at the College. The College has come through this difficult time with adequate reserves while minimizing negative impacts on core programs and services. The Commission commends the College for its commitment to the success of pre-college level students and for its rigorous curriculum approval process and for the support it provides to faculty through the Opportunity Center in the Teaching and Learning Department. Lastly, the College is to be lauded for providing student support services that are well aligned with the institution's mission, core themes and strategic goals.

President Julie Huckestein July 20, 2015 Page Two

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. Deborah Sipe, Dean, Teaching & Learning

Mr. Ed Dodson, Board Chair

Dr. Jim Middleton, Commissioner, Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development

## Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation Spring 2015 Chemeketa Community College Recommendations

- 1. The evaluation committee recommends that Chemeketa Community College review its indicators and definition of mission fulfillment to ensure that:
  - a. The measurements associated with the indicators provide information that can be used to make programmatic and budgetary decisions (Standard 1.B.2).
  - b. The definition of mission fulfillment maps clearly to the indicators and their associated measures (Standard 1.A.1).
- 2. The evaluation committee recommends that the College ensure that there are published program outcomes for each program and that the assessments of program and general education outcomes accurately and adequately reflect student learning (Standard 2.C.1, 2.C.2, 2.C.3, 2.C.9, and 2.C.10).