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August 16, 2011

Dr. Preston Pulliams  
District President  
Portland Community College  
P.O. Box 19000  
Portland, OR 97280-0990

Dear President Pulliams:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Portland Community College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Spring 2011 Year One Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Spring 2010 Regular Interim Evaluation Report. This matter was the subject of correspondence dated August 3, 2010. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College submit an addendum to the institution's Spring 2012 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report. In addition, the Commission requests that the College address Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report as pertains to Standard Two as part of the Spring 2012 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report. Further, the Commission requests that the College address Recommendations 4 and 5 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report in its updated response to Standard One as part of the Spring 2012 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In taking this action, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, 4, and 5 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Portland Community College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. Moreover, the Commission determined that Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Spring 2010 Regular Interim Evaluation Report are now substantially in compliance with the criteria for accreditation.

However, the Commission determined that Recommendation 3 of the Spring 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report is an area where Portland Community College does not meet the Commission's criteria for accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy A-18, *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period* (enclosed), the Commission requires that Portland Community College take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 3 is addressed and resolved within the prescribed two-year period.

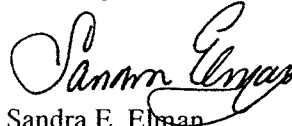
In the unlikely event the Commission should conclude that an institution is in danger of being unable to fulfill its mission and goals or to continue to meet the Eligibility Requirements or Standards for Accreditation, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution receive an evaluation committee for a special review.

President Preston Pulliams  
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If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a rewarding academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra E. Elman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations  
Policy A-18

cc: Dr. Christine Chairsell, District Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs ✓  
Mr. Jim Harper, Board Chair  
Dr. Camille Preus, Commissioner, Department of Community Colleges  
and Workforce Development

**Year One Peer-Evaluation Report  
Spring 2011  
Portland Community College  
Recommendations**

1. Assessment is not used for improvement in teaching and learning. The evaluation panel recommends that PCC use assessment in the improvement of teaching and learning (Standard 4.A.3 and 4.B.2).
2. The panel recommends that PCC approve and post all instructor qualifications, and ensure that embedded related instructional content is clearly identified in all relevant course outcomes (Standard 2.C.11).
3. The panel recommends that PCC evaluate faculty on a periodic basis (Standard 2.B.6).
4. The panel recommends that the institution identify an acceptable threshold or measure that can be used to determine mission fulfillment (Standard 1.A.2).
5. Although PCC has established objectives for each of its core themes, the panel recommends that the institution develop indicators of achievement that provide results that are meaningful and measurable for evaluating the accomplishment of the objectives for each core theme (Standard 1.B.2).

## ***Policy A-18 Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period***

If the Commission determines that an institution it accredits is not in compliance with a Commission standard for accreditation, the Commission will immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or require the institution to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance within a time period that shall not exceed: 1) twelve months, if the longest program offered by the institution, is less than one year in length; 2) eighteen months, if the longest program offered by the institution, is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or 3) two years, if the longest program offered by the institution, is at least two years in length.

The Commission may extend the period for compliance noted above should it reasonably expect that, based upon the institution's progress toward meeting the Commission's standard for accreditation, the institution will come into full compliance within a reasonable timeframe. Should an institution deem that as a result of mitigating circumstances it is not able to comply with the standard for accreditation within the specified period of time, the institution may submit a written request to the Commission for additional time to come into compliance with the standard for accreditation. The request is to be submitted prior to the time limit for corrective action set forth by the Commission, provide a detailed explanation of the reasons why the institution cannot comply with the standard for accreditation within the designated time period, and demonstrate that the institution is making good progress in meeting the standard for accreditation. Following a review of the request, the Commission will make a determination as to whether the institution has based its request on valid reasons. If the Commission determines that the institution has substantiated good cause for not complying within the specified time period and is making good progress to come into compliance, the Commission will extend the period for achieving compliance and stipulate requirements for continuing oversight of the institution's accreditation during the extension.

Adopted 1997/Revised 2002