



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100  
Redmond, WA 98052-3981  
425 558 4224  
Fax: 425 376 0596  
www.nwccu.org

July 27, 2017

Dr. Sheila Stearns  
Interim President  
The University of Montana - Missoula  
32 Campus Drive  
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear President ~~Stearns~~ *Sheila*:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to inform you that the accreditation of The University of Montana - Missoula has been reaffirmed on the basis of the unique Spring 2017 Demonstration Project Year Seven *Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

The Commission determined that its expectations regarding Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2014 Year Three Peer-Evaluation Report have been met.

The Commission commends the visionary leadership of former President Royce Engstrom coupled with the steadfast, strategic coordination of the University's Demonstration Project Director Nathan Lindsay for ensuring that The University of Montana - Missoula engaged in an intensive, deliberative evaluative process aimed at identifying meaningful and valuable means of focusing on the assessment of student learning outcomes in a complex, multifaceted research university. Moreover, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation to The University of Montana - Missoula for participating in the Demonstration Project and making a three-year commitment to focusing on the assessment of student learning outcomes and general education as manifestations of mission fulfillment. The Commission anticipates that the findings and experience of undergoing this innovative, intensive accreditation evaluation will inform ongoing continuous improvement efforts at the University and as importantly be valuable to institutions with a similar scope and breadth of programs both in the Northwest and nationwide with the aim of enhancing the value and meaning of regional accreditation evaluations in the future.

In addition, the Commission commends The University of Montana - Missoula for integrating student learning outcomes into mission fulfillment and aligning planning and assessment processes. Moreover, the Commission finds laudable the University's efforts in developing a culture of learning and assessment and building upon those efforts of faculty who were "early adopters" of the process. Further, the Commission applauds the University for developing a culture of transparency and effective communication as individuals shared assessment results and information across campus.

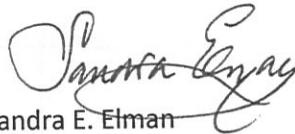
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Commission looks forward to the University's important participation at NWCCU's October 2017 Summit.

Best wishes for a rewarding 2017-2018 academic year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra E. Elman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being the most prominent.

Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

cc: ✓ Dr. Nathan Lindsay, Associate Provost for Dynamic Learning  
Ms. Fran Albrecht, Chair, Board of Regents  
Dr. Royce Engstrom, Former President