



July 23, 2021

Sandra Boham  
President  
Salish Kootenai College  
52000 Highway 93  
Pablo, MT 59855

Dear President Boham:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 23-25, 2021, concerning the Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Salish Kootenai College. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

### **Accreditation**

Reaffirm Accreditation

### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Salish Kootenai College for:

1. Active engagement with program advisory committees (PACs) that result in quality academic programs that contribute to the economic development of the region.
2. Investments in personnel and increased collaboration with the Foundation, resulting in significant improvement with student loan default rates and its demonstrated ability to provide responsible financial aid literacy to its students.
3. A governance structure that is student focused, provides broad-based constituent input and participation, and focuses on internal development of leadership and sustainability.
4. Its ongoing dedication to improve the fiscal stability of the college; namely, the institution's ability to acquire substantial grant funding, independent donations, and the continued success of its Foundation.
5. Its integration of its mission of perpetuating the Séliš, Ksanka, and Qlispé peoples' values with the College's academic programs and throughout the institution.

### **Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that Salish Kootenai College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Establish and demonstrate regular and consistent processes for evaluation of faculty, staff, and administrators. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.4)

### **Future Evaluations**

- Ad Hoc Report Spring 2022
  - Recommendation 1: Spring 2021 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2024

- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2027
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2028

Per [USDE guidance](#), all virtual accreditation site visits shall be followed by in-person campus visits within a reasonable time when public health conditions improve and are authorized by applicable law. Campus visits may be limited to focus on items identified in the Peer-Evaluation Report and may include fewer than all evaluation team members.

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison, Dr. Selena Grace, at [sgrace@nwccu.org](mailto:sgrace@nwccu.org).

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

cc: Dr. Stacey Sherwin, Director of Institutional Effectiveness  
Mr. Jim Durglo, Chair, Board of Directors  
Dr. Beckie Hermansen, Director, Institutional Research, Snow College