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February 28, 2012

Dr. James Limbaugh  
Chancellor  
Montana State University - Northern  
P.O. Box 7751  
Havre, MT 59501-7751

Dear Chancellor Limbaugh:

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Montana State University - Northern has been reaffirmed on the basis of the Fall 2011 Year One Evaluation which was expanded to again address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2009 Focused Interim Evaluation Report. This was the subject of correspondence dated February 9, 2011.

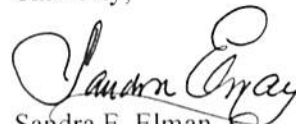
In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission rescinded Recommendation 2 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report and renumbered the remaining Recommendations accordingly. The Commission requests that the University address renumbered Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report as part of its updated response to Standard One in its Fall 2013 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report. Further, the Commission requests that the Fall 2013 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report be expanded to address renumbered Recommendation 3 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation report. The Commission also reminds the University to address Eligibility Requirement 3 (*Mission and Core Themes*) as part of its Fall 2013 Year Three Self-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making this request, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Montana State University - Northern is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

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

All the best.

Sincerely,

  
Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Rosalyn Templeton, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs ✓

**Year One Peer-Evaluation Report  
Fall 2011  
Montana State University - Northern  
Recommendations**



1. Although the institution has defined mission fulfillment in the context of the Standards of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the method for measuring degree of mission fulfillment is not articulated. The evaluation panel recommends that this be done (Standard 1.A.2).
2. The panel recommends that the measures chosen to track progress toward institutional objectives be refined and delimited so they can track more precisely progress toward objectives. Included in this effort should be determination of how each measure will be used (i.e., raw value, comparison to a benchmark, improvement over past performance) and the frequency of measurement (Standard 1.B.2).
3. The panel recommends that the institution complete, as soon as is practical, a comprehensive enrollment management plan and a campus-wide assessment plan (Standards 3.A.1 and 4.A.1).