

*NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES*

**COMMISSION ON COLLEGES**

December 22, 1998

Dr. Tana L. Hasart  
President  
Clark College  
1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98663

Dear President Hasart:

On behalf of the Commission on Colleges, I am pleased to report that the accreditation of Clark College has been reaffirmed on the basis of the recent comprehensive self-study and full-scale evaluation. Congratulations on receiving this continued recognition.

The policy of the Commission is not to grant accreditation for a definite number of years. Instead, accreditation must be reaffirmed periodically. Each institution needs to conduct a self-study and be visited by a full evaluation committee at least once every ten years, and during the first year, the institution is to submit an interim report and be visited by one or more Commission representatives. In the case of Clark College, the Commission requested that the College prepare a focused interim report and host a visit by a Commission representative in fall 2000. The report and evaluation are to address General Recommendations 1, 3 and 4 of the 1998 Evaluation Committee Report (page 39). The recommendations are:

1. Strategic planning must be institutionalized. The evaluation committee observed considerable planning in progress, but these efforts need to be integrated into an ongoing institutional plan which identifies priorities and which will move the institution forward in a systematic manner in areas such as budget, faculty and staff hiring, information technology, and distance learning (Standard One - **Institutional Mission and Goals, Planning and Effectiveness**; Standard 1.A - **Institutional Mission and Goals**, Standard 1.B - **Planning and Effectiveness**).
3. In light of the institution's mission, current enrollment, and anticipated growth, a plan should be created for addressing the utilization of both full-time and adjunct faculty. The College should review faculty work loads. This is particularly a problem where full-time faculty versus adjunct faculty ratios are high, or where no full-time faculty exist in specialized degree and/or certificate programs. Particular attention should be paid to the Paralegal Program as to oversight and supervision by full-time faculty and/or administration. This was cited in the 1989 and 1994 accreditation site reports (Standard Four - **Faculty**; 4.A **Faculty Selection, Evaluation, Roles, Welfare and Development**).

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4. The evaluation committee recommends that a consistent system be developed to conduct, report and monitor evaluation of adjunct faculty to ensure teaching effectiveness. This should be done in a way to be consistent with Commission policy regarding faculty evaluation (Standard Four - **Faculty**; Commission Policy 4.1 *Faculty Evaluation*).

We will write in spring 2000 regarding the focused interim report and to schedule a date for the visit.

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, standards or related policies for accreditation, the Commission reserves the right to request that the institution receive an evaluation committee for a special review.

Again, congratulations. Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Elman  
Executive Director

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cc: Ms. Candy Bennett, Director Special Projects and Outcomes Assessment