



August 5, 2026

Dr. David May
President
Bellevue College
3000 Landerholm Circle Southeast
Bellevue, WA 98007

Dear President May:

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 July 7-10, 2026, concerning the Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Bellevue College.

Accreditation

Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Fulfilled
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continued as Non-Compliant and revised to Recommendation 3: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continued as Needs Improvement and revised to Recommendation 2: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Recommendation 5: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - Continued as Needs Improvement and revised to Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness

Commendations

The Commission commends Bellevue College for:

1. Its deeply embedded, institution-wide commitment to student success, reflected across all areas of the college. Evidence demonstrates a sustained and collaborative effort to remove barriers, expand access, and create an inclusive, supportive environment that effectively meets students' needs throughout their educational experience with care and intentionality.
2. Its significant investment in the systematic collection, disaggregation, analysis, and institution-wide use of student achievement data. Evidence demonstrated how these data are effectively used to inform decision-making processes and to identify and address opportunity and achievement gaps.
3. Providing clear and coherent guided pathway information that supports students in navigating their educational journeys. Through BC Pathways, the First Year Seminar, and course mapping, the college centers the student experience from admission to graduation and strengthens academic engagement and goal attainment.
4. The highly collaborative, integrated approach in the evaluation of transfer credit, transcript review, and credit for prior learning. This coordinated, collegial effort reflects a strong

commitment to opportunity and access, supporting students from admission to transfer and graduation, ensuring that they receive appropriate credit while minimizing barriers.

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that Bellevue College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Develop and implement a formal, scalable, and inclusive process that integrates institutional, operational, and departmental planning with resource allocation. This process should ensure that resources are aligned with institutional priorities and tied to the strategic plan. The process should be regularly assessed for effectiveness and used to inform continuous improvement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1; 1.B.3)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Evaluate its institutional effectiveness through mission-aligned goals, objectives, and indicators of achievement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.2)
- Recommendation 4: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Develop and formalize a collaborative approach to assess institutional learning outcomes, ensuring that assessment practices are consistent, sustainable, and applied across the institution. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.6; 1.C.7)
- Recommendation 5: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Systematically review and assess the effectiveness of its governance model as a means of continuous improvement. This work should result in an operationalized model with a clear delineation of purpose, roles, responsibilities, and communication processes. (2020 Standard(s) 2.A.4)

Recommendations Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Bellevue College is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, the Commission requires that Bellevue College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved within the prescribed four-year period, no later than August 5, 2030.

The Commission recommends that Bellevue College:

- Recommendation 3: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Develop and formalize an approach to assessing program-level learning outcomes, ensuring that assessment practices across academic programs are consistent and sustainable. The college should demonstrate how program learning outcomes assessment results are used to improve student learning and guide continuous improvement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.C.5; 1.C.7)

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Spring 2028
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 5: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Spring 2029
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2026 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Spring 2032

- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Spring 2033

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. Ed Harri, at eharri@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Selena M. Grace
President

cc: Ms. Jill Lane, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Mr. Rich Fukutaki, Chair, Bellevue College Board of Trustees
Dr. James McCoy, Chief Academic Officer, College of Southern Nevada
Mr. Michael Meotti, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
Dr. Joyce Hammer, Deputy Executive Director for Education, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges