April 9, 2010

Mr. James Richardson  
President  
Wenatchee Valley College  
1300 Fifth Street  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear President Richardson:

At the outset, let me express the Commission’s continued appreciation to Wenatchee Valley College for its good faith participation in the Standards Revision and Implementation Pilot Project. The Commission continues to benefit from the College’s contribution in working through the challenges of translating the new Standards for accreditation and the oversight process in practice.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that at its April 1, 2010, meeting, the Executive Committee of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, reaffirmed the accreditation of Wenatchee Valley College based on the institution’s Year Five Report. Congratulations on receiving this recognition.

The Commission noted the rigor in which the College approached the Report and engaged in self-examination. The Commission further commends the College for its participatory process for institutional planning and core theme planning which involves the College community and relevant external constituents. Moreover, the Commission commends the College for engaging in an ongoing budgetary and strategy setting process which is linked to its mission and core themes.

In reviewing the institution’s Year Five Report, the Commission made the following observations which are being offered to help guide the institution’s self-examination in preparation for the Year Seven Report. The Commission encourages the institution to write more succinct narratives aimed at providing more clarity with regard to the extent to which the institution is meeting the Standards for accreditation, and emphasizes the importance of focusing on the institution’s findings, that is, outcomes rather than inputs. Moreover, while the number of core themes the institution has identified is substantially appropriate and reasonable in number, the institution should consider revisiting the number of indicators that strategically buttress the core themes. As the institution works toward addressing Standard Five, the Commission stresses the importance of the College engaging in priority setting as a means of being better positioned to assess its own respective mission fulfillment and sustainability. Lastly, the Commission points out the importance of the institution discussing its plans for using the results of its assessment efforts for improvement.
The Commission made the following Recommendation based on its review of the institution’s Year Five Report.

1. While the institution is engaged in assessment of its programs and services and assessment of core theme objectives, the Commission recommends that the institution implement its improvement cycle more consistently across the institution (Standard 4.B).

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission finds Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2010 Year Five Report is an area where Wenatchee Valley College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement.

Best wishes for a successful completion of the academic year.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

cc: Dr. Susan A. Murray, Executive Director, Institutional Effectiveness