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February 3, 2014

Dr. George S. Bridges
President
Whitman College
345 Boyer Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear President Bridges: *George*

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to report that at its January 8-9, 2014, meeting, the Board of Commissioners reaffirmed the accreditation of Whitman College on the basis of the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Evaluation which was expanded to address Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report.

In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the College address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report in the Fall 2016 Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report. A copy of the Recommendations is enclosed for your reference.

In making this request, the Commission finds that Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2013 Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Peer-Evaluation Report are areas where Whitman College is substantially in compliance with Commission criteria for accreditation, but in need of improvement. The Commission also determined that its expectations with regard to Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2011 Year One Peer-Evaluation Report have been met.

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

Best wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Elman
President

SEE:rb

Enclosure: Recommendations

cc: Dr. Kendra Golden, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs ✓

Year Three *Resources and Capacity* Evaluation
Fall 2013
Whitman College
Recommendations

1. The evaluation committee recommends that Whitman College document its current practices to ensure full compliance with NWCCU standards by publishing human resource policies and procedures relevant to student employees with greater intention and clarity and by ensuring that all human resource policies are reviewed on a regular schedule (Standard 2.A.18).

2. While the evaluation committee acknowledges Whitman College's statement that "actual measurement of success of these benchmarks...will not occur until...2017," the Committee recommends that the College not only revisit its decision to set several of its benchmarks at "maintain," but also articulate a comprehensive process used to establish any institutional benchmarks of accomplishments or outcomes that represent an acceptable threshold or extent of mission fulfillment (Standard 1.A.2).