



March 1, 2024

Dr. Julie White  
Chancellor and CEO  
Pierce College  
1601 39th Avenue S.E.  
Puyallup, WA 98374-2222

Dear Chancellor White:

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 January 30-February 2, 2024, concerning the Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness of Pierce College.

#### **Accreditation**

Reaffirm Accreditation

#### **Commendations**

The Commission commends Pierce College for:

1. The ongoing effort to enhance student success, including comprehensive, meaningful, and integrated work to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion through inclusive practices.
2. The Board of Trustees' collegial engagement in institutional governance, including use of data to promote analysis and planning related to core themes and mission fulfillment.
3. The institutional culture of collaboration and shared governance that fosters and sustains effectiveness, camaraderie, and resilience.
4. Use of data by employees at all levels of the institution to evaluate current practices and inform decision-making.

#### **Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement**

The Commission recommends that Pierce College:

- Recommendation 1: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Fully implement an ongoing system of assessment and planning for non-academic areas to inform and refine effectiveness, assign resources, and improve student achievement. (2020 Standard(s) 1.B.1)
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Systematically evaluate the effectiveness of academic advising to ensure that all students have knowledge of and access to appropriate programs and services that support their success. (2020 Standard(s) 2.G.6)

#### **Future Evaluations**

- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2026
  - Recommendation 1: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
  - Recommendation 2: Fall 2023 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2029
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2030

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](mailto:eharri@nwccu.org).

Sincerely,

Sonny Ramaswamy  
President

cc: Dr. Allison Sieving, Dean of Institutional Research and Effectiveness  
Ms. Therese Ngo Pasquier, Board Chair  
Dr. Stacey Sherwin, Director, Special Projects, Salish Kootenai College  
Mr. Michael Meotti, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council