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September 2, 2009

TO: Faculty, Western Oregon University
FROM: Ronald L. Baker, Executive Vice President
SUBJECT: Revised Standards for Accreditation
DATE: September 2, 2009

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is the regional accrediting agency for colleges and universities in the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. NWCCU is in the final states of revision to its accreditation standards and oversight process. As part of that process we are seeking feedback from interested stakeholders.

As a key institutional constituency, your comments are especially appreciated. In addition to encouraging comments on the revised standards, we hope the review process promotes discussions with colleagues on use of the standards to enhance institutional quality and effectiveness. The deadline for receipt of comments is October 16, 2009. Feedback may be emailed to standards@nwccu.org or mailed to: Standards Review, NWCCU, 8060 165th Avenue NE, Suite 100, Redmond, WA 98052.

Two documents are enclosed to assist in reviewing the standards. The *Overview of the Revised Accreditation Standards and Process* is an overarching statement of the philosophy and structure of the revised standards and process. The *Revised Standards for Accreditation* (Draft 5.0) represents the penultimate draft of the revised standards. These and related documents are available on the Commission's website (www.nwccu.org) via the "Standards Revision" link.

NWCCU will hold regional meetings this fall in Seattle, Washington (November 6), Salt Lake City, Utah (November 10), Bozeman, Montana (November 13), and Portland, Oregon (November 20). The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for discussions on the final version of the revised standards prior to a vote of the membership later this year. Registration and hotel information will be posted by mid-September to the Commission's website.

Thank you for your assistance in advancing fulfillment of NWCCU's dual purposes of institutional improvement and quality assurance.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Baker
Executive Vice President

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Enclosures: *Overview of the Revised Accreditation Standards and Process*
Revised Standards for Accreditation (Draft 5.0)

