



January 24, 2018

Dr. Waded Cruzado  
President  
Montana State University - Bozeman  
P.O. Box 172560  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear President Cruzado:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning the Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation of Montana State University - Bozeman by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on January 10-12, 2018. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Based on these materials and deliberations, the Commissioners took the following actions.

**Accreditation**

- Reaffirm Accreditation

**Rescind Evaluation Committee Recommendation 2**

2. The evaluation committee recommends that Montana State University takes additional steps to reduce the amount of deferred maintenance, to prevent further growth of deferred maintenance, and to relieve capacity issues relative to classrooms and the library. (Standard 2.G.1)

**Recommendations:** Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that the institution:

1. Identify assessable and verifiable indicators of achievement that are more meaningful for evaluating accomplishment of the objectives of its core themes (Standard 1.B.2).
2. Inform core theme planning via the consistent collection of appropriately defined data that are analyzed and used to evaluate the accomplishment of the core theme objectives (Standard 3.B.3).
3. Document, through a more effective, regular, and comprehensive system of assessment of student achievement, that students who complete any of its educational courses, programs, and degrees, wherever offered and however delivered, achieve identified course, program, and degree learning outcomes (Standard 4.A.3).
4. Consistently use assessment results to make determinations of quality, effectiveness and mission fulfillment and communicate its conclusions to appropriate constituencies and the public (Standard 5.A.2).

**Required Follow-Up**

- Submit an Addendum to the Spring 2019 Mission and Core Themes Report to address Recommendation 1 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.
- Submit an Addendum to the Fall 2020 Mid-Cycle Report to address revised Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 of the Fall 2017 Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report.

**Commendations:** Fall 2017 Year Seven Evaluation

The Commission commends Montana State University - Bozeman in particular for the following:

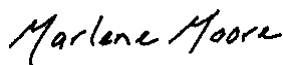
1. Montana State University is commended for the 2011-2012 strategic planning process, the resulting strategic plan, and subsequent communication efforts that have yielded a remarkable level of support across campus at all levels and a consistent focus on strategic plan implementation.
2. Montana State University is commended for its system of shared governance, integrating conventional elected governance groups with a series of councils, which has fostered communication, broad understanding of decision-making processes, and nearly universal agreement that faculty, staff, students, and administrators have input into decisions that affect them.
3. Montana State University is commended for its concerted efforts to increase retention and graduation rates.
4. Montana State University's Renne Library is commended for their leadership in the creation of the Treasure State Academic Information and Library Services (TRAILS) consortium, a comprehensive state- wide academic library consortium.
5. Montana State University is commended for the productive partnerships between the preparatory education, housed at Gallatin College MSU, and baccalaureate programs, which foster access to the university consistent with its Land Grant mission.

**Future Evaluations**

- Mission and Core Themes Report in Spring 2019
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation in Fall 2020
- Year Seven Evaluation in Fall 2024

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 NWCCU.

Sincerely,



Marlene Moore  
President

MM/rb

cc: Dr. Tamela Eitle, Interim Associate Provost  
Ms. Fran Albrecht, Chair, Montana Board of Regents  
Dr. Susan Henrichs, Chair, Evaluation Committee