August 8, 2015

Ms. Lodi Price  
Executive Assistant to the Provost and Executive Vice President  
University of Idaho  
875 Perimeter Drive, MS 3152  
Moscow, ID 83844

Dear Ms. Price:

This is to certify that the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is the regional institutional accrediting agency for colleges and universities in the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities is recognized as a reliable authority on regional, institutional accreditation by the United States Department of Education.

This letter serves to verify that the University of Idaho, located in Moscow, Idaho, has been accredited continuously by NWCCU since receiving initial accreditation in 1918. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accredits the University of Idaho at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree levels. The Commission most recently reaffirmed the accreditation of the University in Spring 2015 on the basis of a Year Seven Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability evaluation. The University’s next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for Spring 2022.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have questions regarding the University’s accredited status with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Sincerely,

Elsa J. Buckley-Gossett  
Coordinator, Communications and External Relations

cc: Dr. Chuck Staben, President  
Dr. Sandra E. Elman, President, NWCCU
Accreditation Reaffirmation

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) informed President Chuck Staben that the University’s regional accreditation was reaffirmed July 20, 2015.

Regional accreditation, a voluntary process, provides a mechanism to recognize colleges and universities that meet defined standards of practice and quality. The University of Idaho was first accredited in XXXX and continues that status today.

The accreditation process, a seven year cycle, begins with an initial report in Year One of the cycle. This is followed by a Mid-Cycle on-site review with a particular focus on student learning. The comprehensive report developed for the Year Seven visit includes information on institutional changes since the previous report; Mission, Core Themes, and Expectations; Resources and Capacity; Institutional Planning, Core theme Planning, Assessment, and Improvement; and Mission Fulfillment, Adaptation, and Sustainability.

The University of Idaho hosted the Year Seven site visit in spring 2015. A team of seven members from within the NWCCU region conducted an on-site visit to ascertain that the University addressed and provided documentation that each of the standards was addressed and met. Team members reviewed the Year Seven Report; interviewed University administrators, faculty, staff, and students; visited various facilities; had the opportunity to observe classes; and gathered information relative to the standards and self-study. The team documents its observations and findings in a report submitted to NWCCU with its commendations and recommendations.

The NWCCU decision included three commendations: 1) recognition of the University’s “innovative and interdisciplinary” program of General Education, 2) the impact of the Leadership Academy on faculty and staff leadership development, and 3) the significant initiatives to improve public safety and engage the University community in ensuring the welfare of others. The Commission identified recommendations for continuing attention and improvement. These included: 1) more clearly identifying the benchmarks for missing fulfillment, 2) more consistently use assessment results to determine fulfillment of the mission, 3) more consistently formalize and evaluate institutional planning cycles and results, and 4) use these data to define the future of the University consistent with its mission.

The University is initiating the process for development of the next University strategic plan in fall 2015. The articulation of goals and strategies for the strategic plan will include a review, refinement, and update of strategies, benchmarks, and measures of performance. The increased coordination of these processes will streamline University practices and reporting for the NWCCU and University of Idaho Board of Regents/State Board of Education.

The University is in the process of developing the Year One report for the next cycle of accreditation, due to NWCCU January 2016.

Comments and suggestions are welcome and can be directed to provost@uidaho.edu.

John Wiencik
Provost and Executive Vice President