



Steve Barton

**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES**

1866 Southern Lane • Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Telephone 404/679-4500 Fax 404/679-4558

www.sacscoc.org

January 9, 2009

Dr. Randall J. Webb
President
Northwestern State University
140 Central Ave.
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Dear Dr. Webb:

The following action regarding your institution was taken at the December 2008 meeting of the Commission on Colleges:

The Commission on Colleges reviewed the institution's First Monitoring Report following reaffirmation of accreditation. No additional report was requested.

We appreciate your continued support of the activities of the Commission on Colleges. If you have questions, please contact the staff member assigned to your institution.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Belle S. Wheelan in cursive.

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
Commission on Colleges

BSW:sap

cc: Dr. Rudolph S. Jackson

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January 9, 2008

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Dr. Randall J. Webb
President
Northwestern State University
140 Central Ave.
102 Creative and Performing Arts Center
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Dear Dr. Webb:

The following action regarding your institution was taken at the December 2007 meeting of the Commission on Colleges:

The Commission on Colleges reaffirmed accreditation with a request for a First Monitoring report due **September 5, 2008**, addressing the visiting committee's recommendations applicable to the following referenced standards of the *Principles*:

CS 3.5.1 (College-Level Competencies), Recommendation 3

The institution suggests that through its assessment system, evidence is presented that the general education curriculum is effective in facilitating the acquisition of core competencies by graduates. It is unclear, however, that the core competencies for graduates are actually being achieved. As a result, the institution is asked to provide evidence that the core competencies for graduates are being achieved.

CS 3.5.4 (Terminal Degrees of Faculty), Recommendation 4

NWSU provided examples of selected areas such as its Nursing Department to demonstrate achievement of the 25 percent rule for qualified faculty, but did not provide a comprehensive illustration of the course hours taught by terminal degree faculty. To address the concerns of the Commission, the institution is asked to show that at least 25 percent of the discipline course hours for each major at the baccalaureate level are taught by faculty holding the terminal degree.

Please submit to your Commission staff member a **one-page** executive summary of your institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. The summary is due **February 15, 2008**, and also should include: (1) the title of your Quality Enhancement Plan, (2) your institution's name, and (3) the name, title, and email address of an individual who can be contacted regarding its development or implementation. This summary will be posted to the Commission's Web site as a resource for other institutions undergoing the reaffirmation process.

All institutions are requested to submit an "Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan on Student Learning" as part of their "Fifth-Year Interim Report" due five years after their



Dr. Randall J. Webb
January 9, 2008
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reaffirmation review. Institutions will be notified one year in advance by the President of the Commission regarding its specific due date.

Guidelines for the additional report are enclosed. Because it is essential that institutions follow these guidelines, **please make certain that those responsible for preparing the report receive the document. If they have questions about the format, contact the Commission staff member assigned to your institution.** When submitting your report, please send **four copies** to your Commission staff member.

Please note that Federal regulations and Commission policy stipulate that an institution must demonstrate compliance with all requirements and standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* within two years following the Commission's initial action on the institution. At the end of that two-year period, if the institution does not comply with all the standards and requirements of the *Principles*, representatives from the institution may be required to appear before the Commission, or one of its standing committees, to answer questions as to why the institution should not be removed from membership. If the Commission determines good cause at that time, the Commission may extend the period for coming into compliance for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years and must place the institution on Probation. If the Commission does not determine good cause, the institution must be removed from membership. (See enclosed Commission policy "*Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.*")

We appreciate your continued support of the activities of the Commission on Colleges. If you have questions, please contact the Commission staff member assigned to your institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
Commission on Colleges

BSW:cp

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Rudolph S. Jackson