



August 5, 2026

Ms. Patricia Whiteman
Interim President & Dean of Students
Little Big Horn College
8645 South Weaver Drive
Crow Agency, MT 59022

Dear President Whiteman:

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 July 7-10, 2026, concerning the Spring 2026 Special Report (Receipt of Unsolicited Information) and Financial Resources Review of Little Big Horn College.

Accreditation

Accept the Report, Issue a Sanction of Show Cause

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 8: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Continued as Non-Compliant
- Recommendation 9: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness – Continued as Non-Compliant and revised to Recommendation 3: Spring 2026 Special Report

Recommendations Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where Little Big Horn College is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, the Commission requires that Little Big Horn College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved within the prescribed three-year period, no later than August 5, 2029.

The Commission recommends that Little Big Horn College:

- Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Special Report - Establish, formally adopt, and adhere to revised Board policies, procedures, and a code of ethics that are publicly available on the institution's website and that clearly define the roles, responsibilities, communication channels, and governance structures of the institution, thereby providing the administration with sufficient autonomy to fulfill its mission. (2020 Standard(s) 2.A.1; 2.D.2; 2.D.3; ER 8; ER 9)
- Recommendation 2: Spring 2026 Special Report - Ensure the institution is led and staffed by qualified administrators with appropriate authority, responsibility, and accountability to manage the institution and its departments. (2020 Standard(s) 2.A.2; 2.A.3)
- Recommendation 3: Spring 2026 Special Report - Employ staff, administrators, and faculty sufficient in role, number, and qualifications to achieve organizational responsibilities, educational objectives, and the integrity and continuity of student support services and academic programs. (2020 Standard(s) 2.F.3)
- Recommendation 8: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness - Complete external financial audits within 15 months of the close of the fiscal year on June 30th. (2020 Standard(s) 2.E.1; ER 20)

Show Cause

Because of the serious governance issues at the institution, the Commission has imposed the sanction of Show Cause, as stated in NWCCU's Accreditation Actions Policy:

NWCCU may require an Accredited or Candidate institution to Show Cause and note its accreditation is in jeopardy when it does not appear to be in compliance with Standards for Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements, Policies, or applicable federal regulations, and there is evidence the non-compliance is sufficiently egregious such that it raises concerns the institution: has not made sufficient progress toward achieving compliance; does not appear to demonstrate capacity to comply with Standards for Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements, Policies, or applicable federal regulations under the timeframe set by the Commission pursuant to 34 CFR §602.20(a)(2); is in imminent danger of closing; has demonstrated a lack of integrity, truthfulness, or responsibility, and the Commission determines students may be harmed; or information from monitoring activities suggests serious concerns related to student achievement, viability and capacity, or financial health.

A Show Cause action requires the institution to present evidence why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. A Show Cause action will identify Standards for Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements, Policies, or federal regulations that must be addressed in a show cause report, the due date, and require a show cause visit. For accreditation to be reaffirmed, the institution's Show Cause report must provide evidence that it made all necessary improvements and meets the Standards for Accreditation, Policies, and applicable federal regulations. An on-site show cause visit will follow the submission of the show cause report to verify the information submitted. The Board of Commissioners may move an institution from a Sanction of Show Cause to a Sanction of Probation or Sanction of Warning with continued monitoring, if the institution has made marginal progress, but not enough to be reaffirmed for accreditation. The Show Cause action will require a teach-out plan and, if applicable, teach-out agreement(s). The institution may be required to appear before the Commission to consider the status of its accreditation.

The institution must also develop teach-out plans, following the Procedures to Close a Program, Additional Location, Branch Campus, or Institution Policy. As noted in the Policy, “per Federal Regulation 34 CFR 602.24(c)(3), a teach-out plan must include (1) a list of currently enrolled students, (2) a list of academic programs offered by the institution, and (3) the names of other institutions that offer similar programs and that could potentially enter into a teach-out agreement with the institution.”

The teach-out plan, including these requirements, must be submitted to NWCCU within 60 days of receipt of this letter.

The institution must also develop teach-out agreements, following the Procedures to close a Program, Additional Location, Branch Campus, or Institution Policy. As noted in the Policy, “per Federal Regulation 34 CFR 602.24(c)(6), a teach-agreement must include from the institution closing the program, branch campus, additional location or institution (1) A complete list of students currently enrolled in each program at the institution and the program requirements each student has completed, (2) A plan to provide all potentially eligible students with information about how to obtain a closed school discharge and, if applicable, information on State refund policies, (3) A record retention plan to be provided to all enrolled students that delineates the final disposition and custodial agreement of teach-out records and existing student records (e.g., student transcripts, billing, financial aid records), (4) A plan for how students can get copies of their existing transcripts free of charge during the teach-out period, and (5) A plan to treat all students equitably and to assist them in completing their education.”

A draft teach-out agreement is due to NWCCU for approval within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

The institution must also work with other institutions to get signed teach-out agreements, following the Procedures to close a Program, Additional Location, Branch Campus, or Institution Policy. As noted in the Policy, “per Federal Regulation 34 CFR 602.24(c)(6), “from the institution receiving students from the closing program, branch campus, additional location, or institution: (1) Information on the number and types of credits the teach-out institution is willing to accept prior to the student's enrollment (a degree map/cross-walk), and (2) A clear statement to students of the tuition and fees of the educational program and the number and types of credits that will be accepted by the teach-out institution.”

Signed teach-out agreements are due to the NWCCU within 120 days of this letter, after NWCCU approval of the draft teach-out agreement.

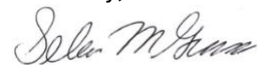
In compliance with NWCCU’s Public Disclosures by Institutions Policy and per Federal Regulation 34 CFR 602.26(b), the institution must notify current and prospective students and display an indicator of the sanction and non-compliance on its website within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of this letter.

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report with Visit Fall 2026
 - Recommendation 7: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2026 Special Report
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2026 Special Report
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2026 Special Report
- Financial Resources Review Spring 2027
 - Recommendation 6: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 8: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Ad Hoc Report with Virtual Visit Fall 2027
 - Recommendation 4: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Mid-Cycle Review Fall 2029
 - Recommendation 1: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 2: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Recommendation 3: Fall 2024 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness
- Year 6 - Standard 2 - Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review Fall 2030
- Year 7 - Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Fall 2031

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. Teresa Rivenes, at trivenes@nwccu.org.

Sincerely,



Selena M. Grace
President

cc: Ms. Kimmy Walks, Data Coordinator
Mr. Kendall Old Horn, Board Chair, Little Big Horn College
Mr. Frank White Clay, Chairman of the Crow Nation
Mr. Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System