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January 30, 2017

Dr. Thomas Keegan  
President  
Skagit Valley College  
2405 East College Way  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5899

Dear President Keegan: <sup>Tom</sup>

On behalf of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to inform you that at its January 11-13, 2017, meeting, the Board of Commissioners accepted Skagit Valley College's Fall 2016 Ad Hoc Report which provided an update on the implementation of the Bachelor of Applied Science degree program in Environmental Conservation. The request for this report was the subject of Commission correspondence dated May 29, 2014.

In accepting the report, the Commission granted accreditation at the baccalaureate level for the Bachelor of Applied Science degree program in Environmental Conservation. The effective date for accreditation at the baccalaureate level is September 1, 2015. Congratulations on receiving this recognition.

The Commission reminds the College that if it should decide to offer non-applied bachelor degree programs (such as a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts), in accordance with Commission Policy, *Substantive Change*, a new prospectus will be required for review and approval as a *substantive change*. Moreover, in offering these degrees, careful consideration should be given regarding Standard 2.B.1 and 2.B.4 regarding faculty qualifications, duties, responsibilities, and authority.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes for a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Elman  
President

SEE:rb

cc: Ms. Marilyn Franklin, Director of Institutional Planning & Effectiveness ✓