

**Northwest Commission on  
Colleges and Universities**

**Ad Hoc Report  
Response to Recommendation One From  
Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report**



**EASTERN**  
**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

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start something **big**

**Submitted by  
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**EWU Ad-Hoc Report in Response to Year Seven Peer Evaluation Report, Recommendation One to  
NWCCU**

**Contents**

Institutional Overview.....1  
Summary Update of Institutional Changes..... 3  
Response to Recommendation One as Requested by the Commission.....4



## Institutional Overview

More than 100 years ago, the transportation industrialist Benjamin P. Cheney made a donation that helped the citizens of Cheney, Washington, fulfill their dream of building an institute of higher learning. In 1882, the Benjamin P. Cheney Academy opened its doors to more than 200 students. Within just seven years, the academy became the State Normal School at Cheney. The school was designated as an institution “for the purpose of instruction of persons, both male and female, in the art of teaching the various branches that pertain to a good common school.” The school was a fully accredited four-year degree-granting institution, offering majors in numerous subjects, when it became Eastern Washington School of Education in 1937. The campus grew rapidly in size and program offerings and, as a reflection of these changes it was renamed Eastern Washington State College in 1961. As regional needs for professionals in many fields grew, the institution added a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. In 1977, the state legislature changed the school’s status to a regional, comprehensive university and renamed it Eastern Washington University (EWU).

EWU’s main campus is located on a 329-acre site in Cheney, with approximately 150 acres developed. In 1983, the EWU Higher Education Center was opened in Spokane to provide selected programs in downtown Spokane and better serve Spokane residents. In 1996, EWU’s College of Business and Public Administration relocated from Cheney to Spokane’s Riverpoint Campus, which EWU shares with Washington State University. In 2007, the EWU Higher Education Center was closed, and programs located there were moved to the Riverpoint campus, consolidating EWU’s offerings in Spokane.

EWU also has several off-campus sites at community colleges in Washington. In 2002, EWU opened a location on the campus of Bellevue College in Bellevue, Washington. EWU offers five undergraduate degree-completion programs at the Bellevue location. In 2013-2014, EWU opened a site for undergraduate programs at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington.

In response to requests to expand access throughout the state to higher education opportunities, EWU partners with Pierce College, Clark College, South Seattle Community College, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, and North Seattle Community College to offer baccalaureate degree-completion programs at these locations. At the graduate level, EWU offers its Master of Social Work degree program in Everett and Vancouver.

EWU is led by President Mary Cullinan and the President’s Cabinet, which includes the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, the vice president for Advancement, the vice president for Business and Finance, the vice president for Student Affairs, and the vice president for Information Technology; the directors of athletics, government relations, and EO/AA/ADA compliance; the associate to the president, the college deans, the dean of libraries, the dean of students, and the three vice provosts. Additional President’s Cabinet members include the presidents of the Faculty Senate, the United Faculty of Eastern, the Washington Federation of State Employees (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 93), the Public School Employee Union, and the Associated Students of Eastern Washington University (ASEWU).

EWU units that deliver academic courses and programs are organized into the library and five colleges, each of which is led by a dean. Programs offered at the EWU campus in Spokane and off-campus locations are overseen by the deans of the colleges in which the respective programs reside.

EWU is committed to providing access, opportunity, and excellence to the residents and communities it serves. This commitment is demonstrated by the student population served, which clearly mirrors the population of the region. Many of EWU’s students come from low-income families; approximately 75 percent of students received financial aid in the 2014-2015 academic year.

Enrollment at EWU for fall 2014 was 13,453 students (headcount). The overall underrepresented population of the student body is 25 percent (using the Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System definition); 90 percent of students are Washington residents, and 49 percent are first-generation college students.

EWU provides significant opportunity for its students. EWU offers six bachelor's degrees (BA, BS, BAB, BAE, BM, BFA) in more than 100 fields of study, 11 master's degrees in 33 fields of study, 13 undergraduate certificates, 12 graduate certificates, an educational specialist degree in School Psychology, and an applied doctoral degree in Physical Therapy. Students can earn baccalaureate or master's degrees in fields such as the health sciences, life and natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, business, and education. EWU also participates in NCAA Division I athletics with 315 student-athletes participating on eight women's and six men's intercollegiate teams as of fall 2014.

EWU's commitment to excellence is demonstrated in part by having 20 programmatic accreditations ([http://access.ewu.edu/Documents/Institutional%20Research/accreditation/Accreditations\\_01\\_13\\_14.pdf](http://access.ewu.edu/Documents/Institutional%20Research/accreditation/Accreditations_01_13_14.pdf)) in programs from each of the five colleges. Examples include the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene, the only such program in the state. Other examples include EWU's engineering degrees, both mechanical and electrical, and the applied doctoral program in Physical Therapy. Of all undergraduate degrees granted in recent years, about 20 percent were in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields.

## **Summary Update of Institutional Changes**

Institutional changes occurring at EWU after its 2015 Year Seven report to NWCCU (May 4 through 6, 2015) are shown below.

In May 2015 Provost and Academic Vice President, Dr. Rex Fuller, left his position to become President of Western Oregon University. Dr. Mary Ann Keogh Hoss serves as Interim Provost and Academic Vice President while a national search is conducted for Dr. Fuller's replacement.

Since Registrar, Erin Morgan resigned in August 2015, the Division of Student Affairs is now searching for that position.

## Response to Topics Previously Requested by the Commission

The ad hoc peer evaluation report resulting from the NWCCU site team's visit to EWU in 2015 included the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 1:** *The evaluation committee recommends that Eastern Washington University seek formal approval of its mission statement by its governing board (Standard 1.A.1).*

On July 20, 2015, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities informed Eastern Washington University that, "In reaffirming accreditation, the Commission requests that the University submit an Ad Hoc report in Fall 2015 to address Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report."

The Commission indicated that Recommendation One of the Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report did not meet the criteria for accreditation. As a result the Commission, "requires that Eastern Washington University take appropriate action to ensure that Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2015 Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Report is addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period."

In response to the Year Seven Peer-Evaluation Team visit on May 4 through 6, 2015, but prior to the Commission's required action, the Eastern Washington University's, Board of Trustees voted for formal adoption of the EWU mission statement. The following was taken from the May 14, 2015, Board of Trustee's meeting minutes:

**Motion 05-01-15:** *Trustee Murphy, in order to reaffirm what has already been done, moved to officially approve adoption of the strategic plan as written in the 2012-2017 strategic plan and the mission:*

*Our Mission*

*EWU expands opportunities for personal transformation through excellence in learning.*

*EWU achieves this mission by:*

- *fostering excellence in learning through quality academic programs, undergraduate and graduate student research and individual student-faculty interaction. Students extend their learning beyond the classroom through co-curricular programs, life skills development, internship programs, volunteering and service learning;*
- *creating environments for personal transformation that enrich the lives of individuals, families, communities and society at large;*
- *expanding opportunity for all students by providing critical access to first-generation students, underserved populations, place-bound students and other students who may not have the opportunity for higher education; and*
- *growing and strengthening an intellectual community by developing faculty and staff through support of professional development.*

*Seconded by Trustee Finley.*

*Motion carried.*

With the formal adoption of the EWU Mission by its Board of Trustees the administration of the university believes the university is in compliance with the Commission's Standard 1.A.1, and has appropriately responded to the Commission's request for corrective action to have taken place within two



years of the time as set out by the *Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period*.

Moving forward, the Board of Trustees and university leadership will ensure that there is appropriate interface with the university's Accreditation Liaison Officer, the Accreditation Steering Committee, and strategic planning efforts so that such an oversight will not reoccur.