



# Greg South, Ph.D.

— Interim President —

Today, I and two representatives from the college and two members of the NIC Board of Trustees met with Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, president of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, representatives from the NWCCU's staff and the commission's chair. This was a meeting called by the NWCCU and at the direction of the commission, the college representatives listed above were instructed to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the action letter sent to the college on February 9<sup>th</sup> so that all involved clearly understand what is expected as the college and the NWCCU work together to help NIC maintain its accreditation status.

Today's meeting produced healthy dialogue where the NWCCU clearly expressed their desire for NIC to seize the opportunity before us. They recognized that the interim leadership team and the board are making strong efforts to work together and there remains much work yet to do to fix the deficits of board governance and maintain our accreditation.

An important emphasis shared today is that the NWCCU is looking for cooperation from everyone. All board members must set aside differences and come together to work with one another for the best interests of the students at the college. Employees and the community-at-large also need to play a role in this process by exhibiting positive actions towards achieving a path forward by supporting the board of trustees' efforts in working together.

The NWCCU made it clear that they want to see NIC succeed yet were serious in their message that everyone on the board must take responsibility for actions that have caused and are causing problems with the college's accreditation. Recent behavioral changes by the board have restored hope that there is a path forward for all to work together but demonstrative improvement is still expected.

NIC has until March 13, 2023, to write a comprehensive *Show Cause* Report. Included in that report the college will share an overarching framework for a potential future teach out process addressing the number of students in the various programs that NIC offers and the other regional program offerings available to students. This is a standard procedure when an institution is placed on show cause.

An on-site peer review visit will occur April 17-18, 2023. In June, the NWCCU Commissioners will meet to evaluate NIC. If an adverse action decision is rendered, then NIC will have the ability to go through an appeal process in July.

While the next six months outlined above involve multiple steps, the most important step is occurring right now – the recognition by the board and the NIC community that there are no additional chances. This is an accreditation issue for North Idaho College as it stands today, with the people in the current roles that they hold. It is the responsibility of this seated board of five duly elected trustees, the current employees of the college, and the community NIC serves to take ownership and be part of the solution to maintain NIC's accreditation status, an honor proudly held since 1947.

Working together, I am confident we will resolve these issues.

Regards,

Greg South, Ph.D.  
Interim President