



May 21, 2013

Ms. Linda Crerar, Director
Center of Excellence, Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Pierce College
9401 Farwest Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98498

Dear Ms. Crerar,

This letter serves as the final report on the Center of Excellence for Homeland Security (Center) self-assessment activities for fiscal year 2013.

On April 16th, 2013, a review team from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) participated in the Center's self-assessment. Evaluators were: Cheri Loiland, Vice President for Instruction, Bates Technical College; ; Krista Fox, Dean Health, Business and Professional Services, Tacoma Community College; Marie Bruin, Policy Associate, SBCTC; Kendra Hodgson, Policy Associate, SBCTC; and Katherine Mahoney, Program Administrator, SBCTC.

The review team noted their appreciation of the nature of the work of the Center and all its efforts to prepare the college system to respond to and recover from emergencies. Additionally, the review team commends the Center for the following initiatives:

- Developing agreements with other colleges to deliver Homeland Security/Emergency Management (HSEM) certificate and AA programs online
- Leveraging a FEMA grant to integrate HSEM curriculum into ESL/ABE courses, showing a creative approach to a critical area;
- Rigorous strategic planning with the Center advisory board; and
- The improvement of the Center newsletter to be clearer and provide more concise information.

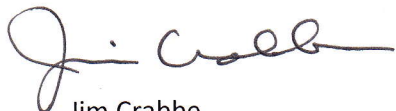
The Center's presentation made it clear that the HSEM industry is just beginning to become professionalized to the point of having clear career pathways. The review team asks that the Center continue to inform the system of new and emerging trends and assist colleges to identify industry skills requiring integration into their existing programming. Given the Center's location, the review team is interested to see further work in supporting career pathways for veterans into HSEM careers as described in the Center's work plan (see FY13 work plan, 3.D.c). Finally, the Center is encouraged to take on additional work in engaging with other workforce development partners (workforce development councils, economic development councils, associate development organizations) as well as industry, to

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more clearly define whether there is an existing skills gap and how the college system can best respond to that need. A more rigorous analysis of the demand-side of HSEM careers is necessary to appropriately inform the CTC system of potential training needs

The review team expresses its thanks to the Center staff for their time and effort in assembling their presentation and self-assessment materials.

Sincerely,



Jim Crabbe
Director, Workforce Education