



November 4, 2020

Linda Crerar, Director
Center of Excellence for Homeland Security Emergency Management
Pierce College – Fort Steilacoom
International House Rm #100
9401 Farwest Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98498-1999

Dear Linda,

On October 29, 2020, a team of representatives from the colleges and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) participated in a review of the Center of Excellence for Homeland Security Emergency Management (Center). Reviewers were: Carli Schiffner, Deputy Executive Director for Education, SBCTC; Peter Guzman, Policy Associate, SBCTC; Danny Marshall, Program Administrator, SBCTC; Herman Calzadillas, Dean of AMTEC and Career Connected Learning, Everett Community College; Stephen Thomas, Vice President of Instruction, Peninsula College; and Jaclyn Jacot, Dean of Extended Learning and Workforce Initiatives, Spokane Community College. This letter serves as the review team's final report for the Center for fiscal year 2020.

Several strengths were identified during the review, including the following commendations:

Item One. The Center of Excellence is commended for its enhanced commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all Center business. The Center successfully aligns its work with the SBCTC vision statement and Pierce College's mission and goals related to equity. This is reflected throughout the Center's work.

Item Two. The Center of Excellence is lauded for its innovation around delivery of services in an online / digital environment. The Center has a strong website presence, complete with newsletter links, podcasts links, and videos. The Center's prowess in this online environment has allowed the Center to seamlessly continue services with the onset of COVID in March of 2020.

Item Three. The Center of Excellence should be recognized for its strong relationships/partnerships with Pierce College, the Center's advisory board, and with numerous entities throughout Washington. This robust collaborative network, having been built over the past two decades, has kept the Center relevant in the field of emergency management, as well as highly valued by a sundry of state agencies and colleges.

The review team identified the following recommendations for your consideration:

Item One. The Center of Excellence is encouraged to continue its commitment to furthering diversity, equity, and inclusion work through a review of hiring practices/processes, and diversifying the advisory committee.

Item Two. The Center of Excellence is encouraged to assist the industry/field with common terminology usage. With numerous agencies being a part of emergency management, there is a multiplicity of terms and references used that do not easily align. Creating a shared terminology (or at least a crosswalk between agencies) will help to clarify and strengthen recruitment efforts, curricular development, etc.

Item Three. Coordinate and finalize with Workforce Education Council (WEC) the common course process of proposed common Criminal Justice courses.

These commendations and recommendations were presented orally to site visit participants on October 29th, including Center staff, Center advisory committee members, and college administration. We appreciate your excellent leadership and the way you represent Washington's Community and Technical Colleges in the homeland security emergency management sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carli Schiffner". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Carli Schiffner, PhD
Deputy Executive Director of Education