

# NEWS

The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, Washington 98501 [REDACTED]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 1, 1972

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, has been approved as a Candidate for Accreditation in the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools, college officials learned recently.

In a letter to Evergreen President Charles J. McCann, the Association's Executive Director James F. Bemis said, "Candidates for Accreditation will be listed in the 1972 issue of Accredited Institutions of Higher Education published by the American Council on Higher Education for the Federation of Regional Accrediting Commissions of Higher Education.

"Candidates usually qualify for federally sponsored programs. Also, the Veteran's Administration treats Candidates the same as fully accredited institutions. For students transferring to other institutions, we recommend that their transcripts be evaluated as if from a fully accredited institution."

President McCann said, "We, are very pleased that our Candidacy for Accreditation has been approved. This action gives continuing assurance to our students, other institutions and federal funding sources and agencies that Evergreen's programs and activities carry recognition from the Northwest's accrediting organization."

McCann added, "We are particularly pleased with the timing. It is almost unprecedented for a new college to be advanced to Candidate for Accreditation after only one quarter of operating its instructional program. This is a real tribute to our faculty, staff and students and to the long hours that have gone into the planning of the college during the last four years."

Evaluations for full accreditation usually occur after an institution graduates

Diak Nichols, Director  
Information Services

its first major group of students. In Evergreen's case this should happen within three years.

Evergreen received Correspondent status in June, 1968 following an official visit by a team from the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools. In September, 1971, the college completed an Analysis Report as part of the Candidate for Accreditation procedure. A three person Association team consisting of Dr. Leonard W. Rice, President of Oregon College of Education; Dr. Paul E. Waldschmidt, President of the University of Portland; and Bemis visited the college November 3 to conduct a general evaluation.

Approval as Candidate for Accreditation was announced several weeks later.

The evaluation team reviewed the college's organization, general purposes, finances, physical plant, library, administrative structure, instructional staff, educational program, and general policies and programs relating to students. In a concluding statement the team said:

"The Evergreen State College is an impressive new institution. Intensive planning has occurred since the college was authorized. An administrative and instructional staff has been carefully chosen to achieve its stated goals. A strong commitment exists to demonstrate that flexible, freewheeling, administrative arrangements and academic programs will work effectively for the kinds of students attracted to Evergreen.

"At Evergreen, the total institution is designed to be experimental. It would appear that the college is well suited for its difficult task. The college should be ready to proceed with an institutional self-study in preparation for an evaluation for accreditation within three years."

- ####