



Washington State Auditor's Office

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Financial Statements Audit Report Lower Columbia College

For the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

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Report No. 1016062





Washington State Auditor's Office

February 4, 2016

Board of Trustees
Lower Columbia College
Longview, Washington

Report on Financial Statements

Please find attached our report on the Lower Columbia College's financial statements.

We are issuing this report in order to provide information on the College's financial condition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Troy X. Kelley".

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR
OLYMPIA, WA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Schedule Of Audit Findings And Responses.....	4
Independent Auditor’s Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards	8
Independent Auditor’s Report On Financial Statements	11
About The State Auditor’s Office.....	15

SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

Lower Columbia College July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

2014-001 The College should improve internal controls over financial reporting.

Background

It is the responsibility of the College to design and follow internal controls that provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting. We identified deficiencies in internal controls that could adversely affect the College's ability to accurately report its financial statements.

Description of Condition

We identified the following deficiencies in internal controls over financial reporting that, when taken together, represent a significant deficiency over financial reporting:

- Those preparing the statements lacked adequate resources to ensure transactions were appropriately reported under generally accepted accounting principles.
- The review performed on the financial statements and notes was not adequate to ensure they were complete and accurate.

Cause of Condition

This is the first year that the College has prepared financial statements. The College relied heavily on one individual to prepare the financial statements and has not dedicated sufficient resources to ensure accurate financial reporting.

Effect of Condition

We identified the following errors in the original financial statements we received for audit:

- The College mistakenly reported Stafford Loan proceeds and repayments of \$6,555,074 on their operating statement.
- The College misclassified \$6,962,158 of Pell Grant revenue as operating revenue rather than non-operating revenue.

- The College misclassified \$1,943,197 of head start receipts as “Other Revenues” rather than federal revenues.
- On the statement of cash flows, the College misclassified debt receipts of \$13,059,327 and Pell Grant proceeds of \$6,962,158 as operating cash flows rather than financing cash flows.

The errors noted above were corrected in the College’s final financial statements.

Recommendation

We recommend the College dedicate the necessary time and resources to ensure procedures are in place, such as training and oversight, to ensure the financial statements are accurate, complete and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

College’s Response

Thank you for working with Lower Columbia College (LCC) on our FY13-14 inaugural Financial Statement Audit. LCC is one of 34 colleges in the community/technical college system creating GASB financial statements for the first time in their history and produced its FY13-14 GASB financial statements with guidance and direction from State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) accounting staff. The GASB financial statements were prepared and reviewed by LCC finance office staff along with the assistance of an independent contractor.

The College finds it difficult to agree that it should have put more resources into preparing and reviewing the GASB financial statements. Since 2008, LCC has experienced around 25% reductions in its state allocation, making it difficult to allocate limited resources from its core business operations (Instruction and Student Services) to the finance office to prepare and review GASB financial statements. Nonetheless, LCC did allocate additional resources to the preparation and review of the GASB financial statements by assigning these duties to current LCC staff and hiring an independent contractor to assist them. The errors identified in the original financial statements were the result of misclassifications due to this being our first year of producing GASB financial statements and were easily corrected in our financial statements. We are confident that the College’s future financial statements will be free from similar misclassifications.

Auditor’s Remarks

We understand the difficult challenge of allocating limited resources between competing demands and thank the College for its cooperation and assistance

during the audit. We will review the corrective action taken in our next regularly scheduled audit.

Applicable Laws and Regulations

Government Auditing Standards, December 2011 Revision, paragraph 4.23, states:

4.23 When performing GAGAS financial audits, auditors should communicate in the report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance, based upon the work performed, (1) significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control; (2) instances of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws or regulations that have a material effect on the audit and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; (3) noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements that has a material effect on the audit; and (4) abuse that has a material effect on the audit.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants defines material weaknesses and significant deficiencies in its *Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards*, Section 265, as follows:

.07 For purposes of generally accepted auditing standards, the following terms have the meanings attributed as follows:

Material weakness. A deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Significant deficiency. A deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

The Office of Financial Management's *State Administrative and Accounting Manual* (SAAM), states in part:

Section 20.15.30.a *Who is responsible for internal control?*

The agency head or authorized designee is ultimately responsible for identifying risks and establishing, maintaining, and reviewing the agency's system of internal control. If the agency head delegates this responsibility, the designated person should have

sufficient authority to carry out these responsibilities. Normally, this person is a senior agency manager who does not serve in the internal audit function.

Section 20.15.40.c *Control Activities*

Control activities help ensure risk responses are effectively carried out and include policies and procedures, manual and automated tools, approvals, authorizations, verifications, reconciliations, security over assets, and segregation of duties. These activities occur across an agency, at all levels and in all functions, and are designed to help prevent or reduce the risk that agency objectives will not be achieved. Managers set up control activities to provide reasonable assurance that the agency and business unit objectives are met. An example of a control activity is something as simple as listing tasks assigned to staff members and then periodically checking the list to verify that assignments are completed on time. Refer to Section 20.25 for further discussion of control activities.

Section 20.15.40.e *Monitoring*

Things change and, by monitoring the risks and the effectiveness of control measures on a regular basis, an agency can react dynamically to changing conditions.

Monitoring evaluates the effectiveness of an agency's internal controls and is designed to ensure that internal controls continue to operate effectively. Monitoring is effective when it leads to the identification and correction of control weaknesses before they materially affect the achievement of the agency's objectives. An agency's internal control is most effective when there is proper monitoring, results are prioritized and communicated, and weaknesses are corrected and followed up on as necessary.

There are two types of monitoring: ongoing and periodic. Ongoing monitoring occurs in the course of operations. It includes tasks such as supervisory reviews of reconciliations, reports, and processes. Periodic monitoring includes tasks such as periodic internal audit sampling and annual reviews of high-risk business processes. Internal control deficiencies uncovered by monitoring should be reported to higher levels of management.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND
OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

**Lower Columbia College
July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014**

Board of Trustees
Lower Columbia College
Longview, Washington

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities and the aggregate discretely presented component unit of Lower Columbia College, Cowlitz County, Washington, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the College's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 15, 2016.

Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Lower Columbia College Foundation, as described in our audit report on the College's financial statements. This report includes our consideration of the results of the other auditor's testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and other matters that are reported on separately by those other auditors. However, this report, insofar as it relates to the results of the other auditors, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors. The financial statements of the Clark College Foundation were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and accordingly this report does not include reporting on internal control over financial reporting or instances of reportable noncompliance associated with the Lower Columbia College Foundation.

The financial statements of Lower Columbia College, an agency of the state of Washington, are intended to present the financial position, and the changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows of only the respective portion of the activities of the state of Washington that is attributable to the transactions of the College and its aggregate discretely presented component unit. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the state of Washington as of June 30, 2014, the changes in its financial position, or where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the College's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of College's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Audit Findings and Responses as Finding 2014-001 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the College's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the College's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

COLLEGE'S REPONSE TO FINDINGS

The College's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Audit Findings and Responses. The College's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the College's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.



TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR
OLYMPIA, WA

January 15, 2016

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Lower Columbia College July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

Board of Trustees
Lower Columbia College
Longview, Washington

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities and the aggregate discretely presented component unit of the Lower Columbia College, Cowlitz County, Washington, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the College's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Lower Columbia College Foundation, which represents 100 percent of the assets, net position, and revenues of the aggregate discretely presented component unit. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Lower Columbia College Foundation, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the

financial statements are free from material misstatement. The financial statements of the Lower Columbia College Foundation were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the College's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities and the aggregate discretely presented component unit of the Lower Columbia College, as of June 30, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Matters of Emphasis

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of Lower Columbia College, an agency of the state of Washington, are intended to present the financial position, and the changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows of only the respective portion of the activities of the state of Washington that is attributable to the transactions of the College and its aggregate discretely presented component unit. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the state of Washington as of June 30, 2014, the changes in its financial position, or where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the College's basic financial statements as a whole. The information identified in the table of contents as the Trustees and Executive Officers are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 15, 2016 on our consideration of the College's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That

report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the College's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Troy X. Kelley".

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR
OLYMPIA, WA

January 15, 2016

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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