

Case Name: *In the Matter of* Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

Docket No.: 16-44-O

Filing Party: Respondent, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

Exhibit No.: B-O-10

[Letter of Support – Educator at ACICS Accredited Institution]

September 18, 2017

Dr. Herman Bounds, Jr.
Director, Accreditation Group
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education
LBJ Building, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Educator Letter of Support – 34 C.F.R. § 602.13

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at Fortis College, Online which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at Fortis, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Kathryn Sellers.

Kathryn Sellers, MS
[Educator at Fortis College]

Letter of Support – Educator at ACICS Accredited Institution

September 14, 2017

Dr. Herman Bounds, Jr.
Director, Accreditation Group
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education
LBJ Building, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Educator Letter of Support – 34 C.F.R. § 602.13

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as Director of Business programs at American National University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

In my opinion as an educator, the comparative strengths of the ACICS standards include

- tracking the completion rate of programs
- requiring in-service training of all faculty
- tracking the graduate placement rates
- requiring and tracking employer surveys
- monitoring the financial capability of the institution
- tracking the programmatic retention rates

As an educator at American National University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek

recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,



Mathew S. George
Program Director - Business Administration
American National University
1813 East Main Street
Salem, VA 24153

Tel: 540.444.5233