

**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-13

**34 CFR 600.13(a)**  
**Acceptance of ACICS Standards, Policies, Procedures and Decisions**  
**By Educational Institutions**

**ACICS Accredited Educational Institution**

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S., Director  
Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
Accreditation Group  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of Bryan University in Springfield, Missouri to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role, my responsibilities include oversight of all areas of operation of the University.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As President/CEO at Bryan University, which is an ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions because we have been an ACICS accredited institution since 1991.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience. ACICS's standards of accreditation are very complete in nature developed with consumer protection in mind to ensure

the highest level of education is delivered. Their evaluation process is very thorough beginning with the pre-visit requirements through the site visit, team summary, institutional response, intermediate review committee, staff review and ultimately council review for action. Students should enter ACICS accredited institutions confident their best interests have been considered at all levels throughout the review process.

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Brian D. Stewart, President/CEO  
Bryan University



# BEVERLY HILLS DESIGN INSTITUTE

8484 WILSHIRE BLVD, SUITE 730  
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211  
TEL 310 360 8888  
FAX 310 857 6974  
WWW.BHDI.EDU  
USDOE SCHOOL CODE: 04185500  
SEVIS SCHOOL CODE: LOS214F01431000

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S., Director  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
Accreditation Group  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of Beverly Hills Design Institute in Beverly Hills, California, to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role, my responsibilities include insuring the success of the mission of excellence of our institution.

As a President at Beverly Hills Design Institute which is an ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we are an ACICS accredited institution since August 20, 2010, went through two reaccreditation cycles since then, have several articulation agreements in place with a ACICS and non ACICS accredited institutions; and accept transfer students from ACICS and non ACICS accredited institutions.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including ACCSC, NASAD and WASC. In fact, the organization and institutionalization of our College operations would not have been possible without the application of ACICS standards, policies, and procedure, in particular concerning institutional career mission, institutional organization and administration, admissions and marketing, student relations, satisfactory progress, consumer information, faculty evaluation, library and resources, facilities and equipment, program effectiveness, outcomes, and graduation and placement.

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them, and/or can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued their education at another institution.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

Please do not hesitate to contact me in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Sonia ETE  
President  
Beverly Hills Design Institute

(b)(6)

F 310 857 6974

(b)(6)  
[www.bhdi.edu](http://www.bhdi.edu)



Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S., Director  
Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
Accreditation Group  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of Southern Technical College, based in Orlando, FL to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). I serve as the President and CEO for the College.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As the President/CEO at Southern Technical College, which is an ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we have been an ACICS accredited institution since 2004.



In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience.

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of the College can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them, and may successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Pedro C. De Guzman  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Southern Technical College  
11883 High Tech Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32817



**American Higher Education Development Corporation (AHED)**

**Stautzenberger College, Rockford Career College, Madison Media Institute & East West College of Natural Medicine**

**ACICS Accredited Educational Institutions**

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of our institutions located in Florida, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (“ACICS”). In my role, my responsibilities include the oversight of all compliance and operations activities at each location.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education (“Department”). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency’s jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As the Chief Operations and Compliance Officer at our institutions listed above, which is an ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because our schools have more than a 10 years history as an ACICS accredited institution; have an articulation agreement in place with an ACICS accredited institution; accept transfer students from an ACICS accredited institution; and our corporate / school employees participates on ACICS committees.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including Accrediting Commission on Career Schools and Colleges, Council on Occupational Education, and the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them and/or can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued their education at another institution.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Jeffrey L. Bodimer  
Chief Operations / Compliance Officer  
American Higher Education Development Corporation



Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Long Island Business Institute in Flushing, NY to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role, my responsibilities include improving retention, placing students in to jobs in their field of study, and managing the student services departments.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

As an Executive Director of Academic Operations and Student Services at Long Island Business Institute, which is a ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we have been an ACICS accredited institution for nearly two decades.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including ACCET and Middle States. ACICS standards are far stricter than those that are regionally accredited. Our disclosure information that is required by ACICS is far more rigorous than other accrediting bodies. organization and administration, admissions and marketing, student relations, satisfactory

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them and/or can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued





their education at another institution. In fact, our institution has 15 articulation agreements that allow our students to transfer to regionally accredited institutions.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at 718-939-5100 or at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Anna Venturino

Executive Director of Academic Operations and Student Services

Long Island Business Institute



December 18, 2017

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of the SAE Institutes of Technology in Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL and Emeryville, CA to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role as Manager of Compliance, my responsibilities include assisting campuses with reports and renewals to licensing and accreditation agencies, including the Campus Accountability Report, IPEDS, state licensure, crime statistics, SEVIS, self studies, and new program applications.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As a Manager of Compliance with SAE Institutes of Technology, which is a are ACICS accredited institutions, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we have been ACICS accredited institutions since 2011.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including the Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges and the Accrediting Commission for Career Education and Training. These include instructor qualification and professional development standards, graduate placement standards and verification procedures, admissions and marketing standards, and the satisfactory academic progress standards.

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them and can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued their education at other campuses within the SAE Institutes System.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Best,

(b)(6)

Robert M. Hendrickson  
Manager of Compliance  
SAE Institutes, North America

# Manhattan School of Computer Technology

931 Coney Island Ave. • Brooklyn, NY 11230 • (718) 360-1534 • Fax (718) 851-8302

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of Manhattan School of Computer Technology, a nonprofit 501(c)3 institution in Brooklyn, NY to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role, my responsibilities include overseeing the day to day activities of every aspect our institution in order to comply with ACICS, New York State Education Department, and USDOE rules and regulations.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As the School Director at Manhattan School of Computer Technology, which is an ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we are an ACICS accredited institution since 1987.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies in regards to institutional career mission, institutional

organization and administration, admissions and marketing, student relations, satisfactory progress, consumer information, faculty evaluation, library and resources, facilities and equipment, program effectiveness, and student outcomes (graduation and placement).

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)  
Galina Shumskaya, School Director, Manhattan School of Computer Technology



FLORIDA CAREER  
COLLEGE

December 17, 2017

U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Sirs/Madams of the US Department of Education,

I represent all 12 Florida Career Colleges that are accredited by ACICS.

I write this letter in support of ACICS's application to gain recognition as a new institutional accreditor. In this letter, I want to especially recognize ACICS for making transformative changes to its policies and procedures since January 2016.

After the departure of the former ACICS executive team and the addition of new executives, the ACICS culture favorably changed followed by corresponding policies that have positioned ACICS as an institutional accreditor worthy of your recognition.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best,

(b)(6)

Fardad Fateri

# DEWEY

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## UNIVERSITY

**ACICS Accredited Educational Institution**

December 18, 2017

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S., Director  
Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
Accreditation Group  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of Dewey University in Puerto Rico to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). Dewey University is a nonprofit institution of postsecondary vocational and higher education that offers certificate, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and master degrees. As a Hispanic-serving institution, Dewey University is the recipient of three Title V and one Title III grants from the Department of Education to develop opportunities to in the area of graduate education, health programs and STEM.

In my role as Vice-president of Accreditation and Compliance, my responsibilities include to promote and enhance a culture of compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

§ 602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.

The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by -

(a) Educators and educational institutions; and

(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.

As a Vice-president of Accreditation and Compliance at Dewey University, which is a ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS since we have been accredited for more the two decades.

P.O. BOX 19538 SAN JUAN P.R. 00910-1538  
TEL: 1.866.773.3939 • WWW.DEWEY.EDU

"Somos un Patrono con igualdad de Oportunidades y el Empleo y Accion Afirmativa (E/M/W/PI)"

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Miguel Angel Rivera  
Vice president of Accreditation and Compliance



University of North America  
4375 Fair Lakes Court  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
[www.uona.edu](http://www.uona.edu)  
571-633-9651

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of University of North America in Fairfax, Virginia to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (“ACICS”). In my role, my responsibilities include overseeing the strategic planning, business operation and academic quality assurance of the institution.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education (“Department”). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency’s jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As a president at University of North America, which is an ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we have been an ACICS accredited institution since 2014 and our grant of accreditation is effective until 2021.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including ACCSC.

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them and can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued their education at another institution.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Jill Martin, President  
University of North America



December 12, 2017

Mr. 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: ACICS Accredited School Letter of Support 34 C.F.R. § 602.13

Dear Mr. Bounds:

Season's Greetings!

I am David Sohn, the President and CEO of IGlobal University. As you know, the undersigned schools are currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). These schools represent institutions located throughout the United States and abroad, offering a variety of career-focused programs leading to certificate, associate's, bachelor's, and master's credentials. Many institutions listed below have been ACICS accredited for decades.

This letter is to communicate the continued and longstanding acknowledgement and acceptance by these institutions of ACICS's accreditation standards, policies, and procedures as articulated in the *Accreditation Criteria*, and decisions as they impact and apply to each of the undersigned accredited institutions. For each institution, ACICS's standards and actions have assisted in ensuring that each institution meets and exceeds educational quality goals for the benefit of students and other stakeholders.

Currently accredited ACICS institutions support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to December 2016. The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation by educational institutions, which includes those institutions the agency accredits. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency by its accredited institutions.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

President & CEO  
IGlobal University



December 12, 2017

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of AIHT Education in Stratford, CT to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role as a School Director, my responsibilities include:

- Conduct administrative meetings for updates.
- Initiate and implement development of policies and planning.
- Participate in purchasing goods and equipment, as required.
- Oversee administrative staff, academic colleagues and students.
- Prepare and execute marketing strategy.
- Maintain high levels of quality assurance, including course evaluation and course approval procedures.
- Prepare reports and statistics for internal use.
- Participate in the development of future information systems that would be beneficial for the school.
- Oversee Career Services and Clinical Externship department.
- Participate in Board of Advisory meetings.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --

(a) Educators and educational institutions; and

(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.

As a School Director at AIHT Education, which is a ACICS accredited institution, I have firsthand experience with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we are an ACICS accredited institution since April 2017.

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are much more rigorous than those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including ACCET.

Personally, I think following standards, policies, procedures and decisions are excellent examples of best practice.

- Monthly Placement Verification Program (PVP) – This has to be verified via both employer and graduate.
- Quarterly Campus Accountability Report (CAR)
- SAP standards – Both qualitative and quantitative
- Academic freedom
- Faculty development
- Consumer Information
- Marketing guidelines

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them and can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued their education at another institution.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Ravish Shah  
Director  
AIHT Education



## San Diego University for Integrative Studies

December 15, 2017

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President, ACICS  
750 First St, NE, Suite 980  
Washington DC 20002-4223

Dear Ms. Edwards,

This letter is to express our support for ACICS as you pursue recognition from the US Department of Education.

We are not yet an institution accredited by ACICS, although in 2015 and 2016 we went through many of the steps towards that goal. Speaking hopefully, we were one final site visit away from being accredited by ACICS. Because the US Department of Education withdrew its recognition of ACICS, we have not yet pursued that remaining step.

We would like to state for the record that we found the ACICS staff and the process to be highly professional and helpful, at the same time that they clearly upheld the standards and expectations for an institution seeking its initial accreditation. From the staff and the members of the visiting teams we heard expressions of satisfaction and compliments where those were warranted, as well as clear statements of those areas in need of additional attention or improvement. This is exactly what an institution wants and expects from a credible accrediting body.

Although we were in the process of seeking our first accreditation from ACICS, many of our staff are "veterans" of many years of dealing with other accrediting bodies, both as representatives of institutions seeking accreditation, and as members or chairs of accreditation site visit panels. Given these experiences, we have ample basis for assessing



## San Diego University for Integrative Studies

the ACICS staff and processes, with reference to our experiences with these various other accrediting bodies, both in the United States and internationally.

No other accrediting agency fits the nature and mission of our University better than ACICS, and we strongly urge the US Department of Education to acknowledge the many changes and improvements that ACICS has made, and thus to restore its recognition of ACICS.

Please let us know if there are other ways in which we can be helpful as you take this important step.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Cristina Versari, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer

(b)(6)

Raymond J Trybus, PhD  
President



530 Bush, Suite 201  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Tel: 415-217-0077

December 15, 2017

U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Department of Education Staff:

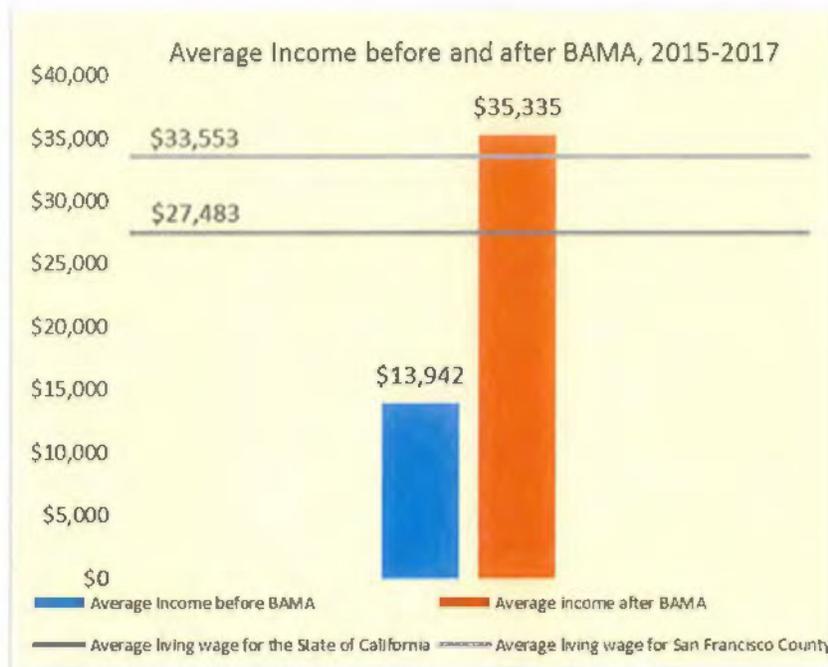
I am writing in support of the re-recognition of Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) by the US Department of Education.

I founded Bay Area Medical Academy in 2005 with the goal to help bridge the opportunity gap by expanding and elevating vocational training in the US. A single parent, and immigrant myself, I know the obstacles that exist to move up the economic ladder in America. As the income inequality keeps widening, technical schools like Bay Area Medical Academy provide an opportunity to train our workers with the skills they need to compete in the ever-changing job market, ensuring they build long term careers. (You can listen to my speech at the Opening Plenary of the CGI America 2012 Conference moderated by President Clinton here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUzVstoPjTg>)

Bay Area Medical Academy is a social enterprise, established as a B-corp and planning to convert to non-profit in 2018. We transform people's lives through vocational education programs created in partnership with employers. As San Francisco grows into the leading technology center of the world, many of our communities and neighborhoods are left behind. We need to continue providing educational pathways to help bridge the economic gap, and to help our most vulnerable populations **stay in San Francisco**. A study released in March 2017 by the Brookings Institution showed that while San Francisco has the ninth-highest general employment rate in the country (79 percent), it also has the highest employment disparity between blacks and whites in the country: 84 percent of white San Franciscans are employed, compared to 53 percent of black San Franciscans.

This is where we come in – while 29% of our student population are Hispanic/Latino, 25% are Africa American, 18% are Asian, 7% White and 6% Pacific Islander. And they get jobs! Our placement rate for 2016-17 academic year in Medical Assisting was 70.2% and in Pharmacy Tech was 83.3%.

Our latest impact analysis presented below shows the tremendous value of our programs. For the 2015-2017 academic years cumulatively, students entering the program earned \$13,942 on average while they earned \$35,335 at the end of the program. The darker gray line shows the California living wage as in previous graphics, while the lighter gray line shows the living wage for one individual in the County of San Francisco, \$33,553.



We believe in the principle of “paying it forward” and wish to contribute in every way possible to strengthening the San Francisco Bay Area community. To that end, we offer scholarships to graduating High School seniors and discounted tuition to non-profit, community-based organizations working to alleviate poverty and assist individuals on public assistance to become increasingly self-sufficient.

Bay Area Medical Academy is an approved training provider for Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) agencies, Employment Development Department (EDD), Work2Future, Unity Council, PeninsulaWorks, Department of Rehabilitation and many other government agencies.

We would like to expand our ability to provide these scholarships and discounts to students by converting to a non-profit. However, this has been postponed by a year due to our need to now pursue reaccreditation.

Bay Area Medical Academy has been accredited with ACICS since 2013. From the beginning it was clear to us that ACICS’s value is in putting students’ outcomes first. During their accreditation visits and subsequent reviews, we have found them to be very investigative and thorough in reviewing all aspects of our institution. From our program

outcomes, staff qualifications, admissions process, and career services, to our curriculum and educational outcomes.

It is unfortunate that the mistakes of few schools, national chains, who were long term players in the vocational training sector, is now affecting hundreds of schools like ours. We are a relatively new, small, community-focused school and have always had the student's interest in our mind.

I hope that you reconsider your decision. I am available any time if you would like to hear about our experience with ACICS further.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)



Founder/CEO



December 12, 2017

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street, N.E. Suite 980  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4241

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Laurus College has been accredited by ACICS for almost ten years and we are pleased with our association with the agency. We have had several visits from different teams and have learned from each of them. Each visit and interaction with ACICS has given us the opportunity to test our standards in management, operations, and academics against the rising bar of ACICS standards. The visit teams reviews and the self-inspection required by self-studies and effectiveness plans have provided us the insight and direction to improve our school's ability to deliver a quality education and learning experience to our students. We are a better school having worked with ACICS.

We commend ACICS for its ongoing efforts to elevate its processes, procedures and standards. We hope to have the opportunity to work with the Council and staff of ACICS for many years in the future.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Jeff Redmond  
Chancellor  
Laurus College  
421 E Betteravia  
Suite 100  
Santa Maria, CA 93454



**SOUTH COAST COLLEGE**  
 2011 WEST CHAPMAN AVENUE, ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92868  
 WWW.SOUTHCOASTCOLLEGE.EDU  
 714-867-5009 PHONE 714-867-5026 FAX

December 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jean Gonzalez. As President of South Coast College in Orange, California, I am writing this letter in support of ACICS obtaining re-recognition by the Department of Education.

I, personally, have always felt that ACICS has had high standards. I was baffled by the loss of recognition by the Department of Education and have been devastated by the adverse effects that the decision has had on me and my staff, my colleagues, and the profession of court reporting as predicted by the Chairperson of the Court Reporters Board in her 2016 letter to the Department of Education. In California, the five ACICS-accredited private court reporting colleges produced 71 percent of the licensed court reporters in the state from 2009 to 2016. Although these schools were held in high esteem in the court reporting community, the burden and expense of having to undergo re-approval by the state of California as a non-accredited school, maintain accreditation with an agency that does not have recognition by the Department of Education, and seek re-accreditation from another accrediting commission resulted in two schools closing and another selling to a non-profit organization.

The letters in **Attachment 1** attest to the esteem in which the California court reporting schools were held and the quality of education provided by these private schools in general and by South Coast College in particular.

South Coast College has always had tremendous support from the Court Reporters Board, the various professional court reporting organizations, and from the alumni of South Coast College. A recent event at South Coast College is a testament to the quality of the alumni that it has produced. Out of the 7 participants at our Pack the School Event in the photo in **Attachment 2**, five are South Coast College alumni. (b)(6) CSR, RPR, CRR, is an (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) CSR, (b)(6) and President of the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association; (b)(6) CSR, is a (b)(6) is Director of the California Court Reporters Association; (b)(6) CSR, is a (b)(6) for the (b)(6) and (b)(6) CSR, is one of six newly appointed (b)(6) (b)(6)

In **Attachment 3**, you can see from the list of 33 participants at this Pack the School event, twenty-six (26) are South Coast College alumni. Fourteen (14) of the alumni panelists shared their stories and one

posted on Facebook her support of South Coast College and indicated that she and her sister are both alumni.

**Attachment 4** is an email from (b)(6) (b)(6) spoke on behalf of the value and need for paralegals. The email speaks to how members of the community perceived the South Coast College experience. (b)(6) previously indicated in an interview that (b)(6) See **Attachment 5**.

Also in attendance was (b)(6) who has authored a number of articles about court reporting including the Lifehacker Career Spotlight: What I Do as a Court Reporter.

As I indicated, I fully support the attempt by ACICS to regain recognition and lament the fact that the loss of its recognition has impacted and devastated so many small school owners and their students, faculties, and staff.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Jean Gonzalez

President, South Coast College

December 15, 2017

Mr. 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: Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College – ACICS Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Bounds:

Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College is the largest business college in Denmark with a long-standing tradition of offering international business educational programs in Denmark as well as abroad. Niels Brock has been operating in Denmark for more than 130 years and been offering programs abroad since 1990s. We are recognized and supported by the Danish Ministry of Education, but in view of our ever increasing international activities we found that an American accreditation – above and beyond our Danish recognition – would be a clearer signal to our foreign partners and international students that we are indeed offering top-quality educational programs.

Consequently, mainly based on the advice of our American college and university partners we thoroughly investigated the accreditation field in the United States, and found that ACICS was the type of accreditation agency that we were looking for – an agency with a focus on accrediting career colleges. Our vision is to ensure that our graduates possess the competencies demanded by employers, in Denmark as well as in the international market. This is exactly the focal point that we found with ACICS. We started preparing for accreditation with ACICS in early 2012. Throughout the process, we received excellent support and clear expectations from ACICS about the process. Through very hard work and with some improvements to our administration, documentation collection, and educational offerings we succeeded in obtaining the institutional approval by ACICS before the end of 2013. We have now offered a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Copenhagen, which uses the American structure and the Danish pedagogical methodology. Since offering this program, we have experienced an increasing number of graduates from our various ACICS-accredited programs. By the fall of 2017, we have over 4,300 graduates from our ACICS-accredited programs.

We have been utterly satisfied with the standards, reviews, and commitment to ensuring delivery of top-quality international business programs. It requires hard work to obtain approval from ACICS and to stay accredited by ACICS. We have been through extensive and thorough reviews with excellent feedback from ACICS and their volunteer evaluators. Initiatives which have been of great assistance in our efforts to deliver the best international business programs.

It is our opinion that ACICS has excellent, extensive and clear standards and processes emphasizing student learning outcomes and placement rates. Consequently, we believe that the ACICS standards and processes provide a solid foundation for upholding the requirements expected of any accreditor recognized by the USDOE and CHEA.

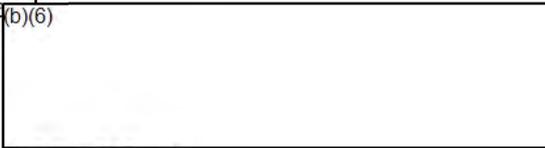


**NIELS BROCK**

EDUCATION SINCE 1881

Through our continual relationship with ACICS, we are confident that ACICS has taken the appropriate measures and made the appropriate improvements to address the findings by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). ACICS, in our opinion, should be given the opportunity to demonstrate full compliance and be once again a recognized agency of the Department of Education.

Since <sup>1</sup>  
(b)(6)



Anya Eskildsen  
President  
Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College





**SOUTHERN STATES**  
UNIVERSITY

December 15, 2017

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of Southern States University in San Diego, California to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role as Chancellor, I am responsible for the management and success of the entire institution and our students.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As a Chancellor at Southern States University, which is an ACICS accredited institution, I am intimately familiar with ACICS accreditation criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we have been accredited by ACICS since 2010. We accept transfer students from an ACICS accredited institution; our school regularly participates on ACICS committees or other teams; and I have personally attended all ACICS annual meetings and conferences for the past 7 years.

San Diego Campus  
123 Camino de la Reina  
Suite 100 East  
San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 298-1829  
[www.ssu.edu](http://www.ssu.edu)

Newport Beach Campus  
1601 Dove Street  
Suite 105  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
(949) 833-8868

Las Vegas Campus  
3100 W Sahara Ave  
Suite 108  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
(702) 383-4088  
[info@ssu.edu](mailto:info@ssu.edu)

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience, including the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). In fact Southern States University is in the process of seeking regional accreditation from WASC and just achieved step one of three by attaining eligibility status. When that process is complete we have decided to maintain our national accreditation with ACICS in parallel with regional accreditation from WASC. Simply put, we would not be in the position of successfully attaining regional accreditation if it were not for the rigor and care of ACICS over the past 7 years. We highly value that experience and plan to build upon it in the future by proudly maintaining ACICS accreditation moving forward.

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them and/or can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued their education at another institution.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached anytime at (b)(6) (cell) or via email at (b)(6) in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

John D. Tucker  
Chancellor

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Suite 108  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
(702) 383-4088  
[info@ssu.edu](mailto:info@ssu.edu)

December 15, 2017

To whom it may concern,

Schiller International University has been accredited by ACICS since 1983. The Schiller main campus is located in Largo Florida USA, but there are also campuses in Heidelberg (Germany), Paris (France) and Madrid (Spain).

The quality standards and requirements set by ACICS have allowed Schiller not only to meet the academic requirements of the Commission of Independent Studies CIE in Florida, but also to meet international Higher Education quality standards in the different countries where Schiller operates outside the USA. We can proudly say that Schiller International University was the first American University to achieve Programmatic Accreditation in Germany in 2017. This demonstrates that Schiller programs meet with the Higher Education Standards set by the European Higher Education Area Agreement signed by 46 countries, the so called Bologna Accord. Furthermore, our students are eligible to gain an additional University degree through the University of Roehampton in London. To make this possible all our programs successfully underwent a validation scrutiny by this university, according to the standards of the Quality Assurance Agency of the United Kingdom (QAA). This entity sets the quality standards for Higher Education institutions in Great Britain. NACES evaluators consider this Roehampton degree to be equivalent to a degree from a regionally accredited University in the USA. Finally, in Spain Schiller International University degrees are considered equivalent to those issued by the Spanish Universities. It has been possible because the Spanish Higher Education Authority recognizes that our programs meet their standards and requirements. As in Germany, Spanish standards meet those of the Bologna Accord.

ACICS has played a major role in making all these remarkable achievements possible. First as mentioned earlier, by setting the quality standards and requirements that allowed us to be at the same level as other Higher Education Systems outside the United States. Second, and taking into account our limited size, by providing the guidelines, appropriate advice and support to make this possible. It is important to highlight that even though we are an American Higher Education Institution, if we don't address local higher education standards we cannot just operate in these countries.



Paris • Madrid • Heidelberg • Florida • Online

ACICS has always provided constructive criticism and advice on how to improve our processes and educational standards. This has made us a stronger University and allowed us to apply for European accreditation with success. More importantly ACICS training, and their updated criteria, have guided us as we strive for higher standards in all that we do and consequently have helped us to provide an outstanding educational experience for our students.

For all of these reasons, we firmly believe that ACICS should continue to be recognized as a federally approved accrediting agency. They have been instrumental in making us a strong University capable of obtaining international accreditation.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Manuel Alonso, Ph.D.  
President

Madrid • Paris • Heidelberg • Florida • Online

Calle Serrano 156 Plaza de la República Argentina 28002 Madrid Spain Tel: +34 (91) 448 - 2488  
Fax: +34 (91) 445 - 2110 E-mail: [schiller\\_madrid@schiller.edu](mailto:schiller_madrid@schiller.edu) [www.schiller.edu](http://www.schiller.edu)

 Schiller International University is accredited in the United States by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Schiller International University's Madrid campus is recognized by the Consejería de Educación de la Comunidad de Madrid (local higher education authorities).



December 15, 2017

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S.,  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you on behalf of American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina to support the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools ("ACICS"). In my role, my responsibilities include leading the creation and implementation of University's strategy; setting university goals; determining priorities and allocation of resources; leading University's external relations locally, nationally, and internationally; and overseeing quality of the academic and support programs at the University.

We have been informed that ACICS has an initial petition for recognition under 34 C.F.R. Part 602 pending with the U.S. Department of Education ("Department"). Those requirements include basic eligibility requirements including that ACICS demonstrate the following:

**§602.13 Acceptance of the agency by others.**

**The agency must demonstrate that its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted in the United States by --**

**(a) Educators and educational institutions; and**

**(b) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.**

As a President at American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is a ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures and decisions of ACICS because we are an ACICS accredited institution since April 2013 and we have to follow all the ACICS criteria, policies, procedures and decisions. Also, we accept transfer students from ACICS accredited institutions.

---

American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mije Keroševića Guje 3, 75000 Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina Tel: +387 35 321 050; Fax: +387 35 340 100 ID Broj: 4209750670009  
E-mail: [contact@aubih.edu](mailto:contact@aubih.edu) Web: <http://www.aubih.edu>

In the experience of this institution, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions are accepted by this institution as sufficient to ensure graduates of ACICS accredited institutions can succeed in the occupations for which their programs are designed to prepare them and/or can successfully transfer or continue their education at institutions accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, as exemplified by graduates or students from ACICS institutions that have completed or continued their education at another institution.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by educational institutions for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (b)(6) or +387 35 321 050 in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely

(b)(6)

President

American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina





December 14, 2017

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Subject: Support of ACICS Petition for USDOE Re-recognition

For more than 50 years, we at Empire College have delivered quality, personalized vocational education to the citizens and businesses of Northern California. We strongly support ACICS and the many efforts they have made to improve their criteria.

As an ACICS accredited institution for over 50 years, Empire College has proudly adhered to and exceeded the standards of excellence set forth in ACICS accreditation criteria. We have played by the rules, as have most ACICS accredited schools, and have placed the success and well-being of our students FIRST. Because of the decertification of ACICS by the U.S. Department of Education, Empire College has been caught up in a regulatory and punitive political firestorm, directed at our sector and our students. There are many small, community-based colleges like us that provide a supportive, quality, interactive educational experience for students who have selected us as an alternative to the community college culture.

As a small college with 400 students in vocational business programs as well as in a four-year Juris Doctor program, we have been burdened by regulations that shift our resources away from educational delivery toward costly reporting. In the bigger picture, the Department's decertification of ACICS has punished all ACICS institutions and has put tens of thousands of students including many veterans at risk unnecessarily, costing the taxpayer billions of dollars.

Empire College has never advertised placement rates nor engaged in any type of advertising that could be construed as misleading or in poor taste. Most of our students have previously attended the local community college, which is one of the best in the state. They enroll at Empire, in part, because we place them in "a caring, supportive educational environment that addresses their self-esteem" (wording which is part of our mission statement) along with our reputation in the community for providing quality education that meets employers' needs. Over the last six years, 82% of Empire College students have been referred to us by graduates, friends, or family members. That is the strength of Empire's reputation, earned over 56 years as an educational resource in our community and proud of our ACICS accreditation.

Our culture has been supported by ACICS as they continue to offer webinars, strengthening standards, and reaching out to our staff, faculty, and most importantly, our students. The academic merit of our occupational programs has been recognized by articulation agreements with the University of Phoenix and Kaplan University.

3035 Cleveland Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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Voice 707•546•4000  
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[info@empcol.edu](mailto:info@empcol.edu)

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
December 14, 2017  
Page 2

Empire College has been on President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll - *with distinction* - for the past four years (and was a finalist for the top award in 2013). In 2015, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors recognized the Empire College Board of Directors with a Jefferson Award for public service. The College has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau, and on our student, graduate, and employer surveys we have a 90+% satisfaction rating. Empire College has no complaints filed with the State approval agency (BPPE), our accreditor (ACICS), or the California Committee of Bar Examiners. Our Law School has produced 12 members of the judiciary in 5 California Counties, and our professors include the Sonoma County District Attorney, Chief Public Defender, and several sitting judges.

In February, we underwent an eight-member reaccreditation visit from ACICS with their expanded new standards and emphasis on data integrity, a two-year collaborative effort with all of our staff and faculty. We adhered to every aspect of their new robust standards and received a three year reaccreditation extension this month.

I sit on the boards of three other colleges, one WASC accredited, one ACCSC accredited, and the other ACICS accredited. I have been through the accrediting process several times with all three. ACICS standards are strongly comparable and in many cases exceed both WASC and ACCSC, particularly as it relates to our sector.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Roy O. Hunt  
Chairman, CEO & President



2012-2014 With Distinction



2015 - Sonoma County



## BERGIN UNIVERSITY *of* CANINE STUDIES

December 13, 2017

Michelle Edwards  
President & CEO,  
ACICS

Dear Ms. Edwards,

ACICS accredited us, an institute focused on the teaching about and researching dogs. It saw the value of our work – recognizing the need for a formal accredited educational program in which the dog was an academic subject of study. ACICS recognized this long before any college or university used the term “dog” in their academic coursework. Today, almost every major university has courses or grants degrees in dog studies, but in 2010 courses in dog studies were unknown, considered beneath the dignity of an academic institution. Dogs were, after all, scroungy pets serving little purpose.

Recognition of the importance of canine studies has changed dramatically since ACICS accredited Bergin University of Canine Studies. We have been in the forefront of this educational tsunami thanks to the acumen of ACICS who provided us this opportunity to facilitate the dog moving into the halls of academia joining the bovine, equine, marine mammals and others, none of whom live as closely with nor do as much for humans as does the dog.

Today Bergin University graduates have started or have been hired by dog businesses and assistance dog programs across the United States and around the world. Our graduates are promoting an understanding of and in-depth knowledge of the dog that exceeds the antidotal beliefs that have limited the dog’s value to society.

An outgrowth of this knowledge has produced diabetic alert dogs, cancer detecting dogs, dogs working in courthouses, dogs helping teach children to read and many other advances too numerous to mention.

Bergin University was initially approved by California’s *Bureau of Private Post-secondary Education* (BPPE) to offer Associate, Bachelors and Masters. We then became accredited by ACICS and our accreditation was subsequently renewed. Our accreditation through ACICS was to continue through December 2018, but with ACICS losing its accreditor status with the Department of Education, we felt it imperative that we apply to a second accreditor, ACCSC.

We have since been through ACCSC’s accreditation process and are awaiting the results. In truth, we have found little difference between the requirements of these two accreditors.

ACICS did place more merit on the academics of our programs, which pleased us since one of our goals has been and continues to be providing scholarly canine education such that dog training becomes a profession, not simply a job -- of an uneducated person relying on aversive methods to suppress dog behavior instead of educating the dog. These same past methods of childrearing and teaching with a ruler have since been outlawed. With professional dog trainers at the helm, these aversive methods are changing dog training as well.

Our secondary goal, recognized and encouraged by ACICS, has been to secure our graduates positions that, with their increased scientific knowledge of the dog, would improve and expand the dog-human partnership. These goals are being met every day as more and more of our graduates start or are hired into businesses and programs that improve or invent new and better ways for this 15,000 plus thousand-year relationship to evolve still further.

With over 60% of American households having dogs and little to no access to formal knowledge about dogs, it is not surprising that so many dogs have been surrendered to animal shelters each year. Educated professionals are changing this. Many of our graduates work in shelters counseling dog owners or hold training classes to help resolve the difficulties these owners are having with their dogs. One owner told me she'd gone to six dog trainers to no avail until she worked with one of our graduates who provided her with the insights and knowledge that resolved the difficulties.

With academics and scientific knowledge being introduced into the world of dog training and dog-human partnerships, formerly stunted by anecdotal knowledge, human-canine relation specialists are finally becoming recognized professionals. Income has increased significantly, and specialist roles have evolved. *Assistance Dogs International (ADI)*, a coalition of assistance dog programs, has developed an accreditation program that requires candidate programs seeking accreditation to follow their published specific guidelines. ADI's process has strict application requirements and includes a formal team visitation.

These advancements could not have happened without the vision and insight ACICS showed in their willingness to accredit a program involving dogs. There was no lessening of their standards in doing so. And we would not have wanted that, as our intent was to be the best we could be. ACICS' *Six Principles for Campus Effectiveness* continue to guide us in our efforts as we regularly review with faculty and staff the need to ensure high student placement rates, quality student learning outcomes, graduate and employer satisfaction, and solid retention and graduation rates. And as evidence of our educational effectiveness -- our graduates hire our graduates!

ACICS has been a progressive force in our school, guiding us while challenging us, but never letting up on their expectations of quality. I appreciated that. It was motivating. In fact, it was while I was a Masters student at Sonoma State University that I had the epiphany that dogs could be trained to help people with disabilities like muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, paraplegia, quadriplegia and other mobility disabilities. And thus was born the service dog.

Finding instructors and instructional materials that will educate our students while challenging them to question and expand their thinking is our tertiary educational mission, so that our students can have their own epiphanies that will further dog-human partnerships. Many of our Masters students' projects and theses have done this. One created a successful concept of dogs being used therapeutically with Veterans to help improve their Post-traumatic Stress symptoms while another examined the ethics of dogs being placed in roles working with individuals with psychological issues. One an outgrowth and critique of the other.

5860 Labath Avenue – Rohnert Park – CA – 94928 – (707) 545-3647 – [www.berginu.edu](http://www.berginu.edu)

ACICS has been a force behind this. Their emphasis on and monitoring of the quality of our student learning outcomes has helped keep us on track. We want to see growth and improvement. They want to see growth and improvement, and their required report submissions help monitor and guide us. Despite the DOE ruling, we continue to submit these reports and plan to go through our upcoming accreditation review with them. At the very least, our programs will improve; at most, ACICS will be allowed to continue as our accreditor.

Respectfully submitted,

(b)(6)

Bonita (Bonnie) Bergin  
President

PS Attached please find the roster of our Program Advisory Boards



**Ophelia Sanchez ME, BS**  
President / CEO  
700 South Royal Poinciana Boulevard  
Miami Springs, FL 33166

(b)(6)

[www.mru.edu](http://www.mru.edu)

December 8, 2017

Mr. Herman Bounds, Jr.  
Director, Accreditation Group  
U. S. Department of Education  
Office of Post-Secondary Education  
LBJ Building, 400 Madison Avenue, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20202

Dear Mr. Bounds,

As the President of Miami Regional University, I want to make you aware of the experience the University community and, most importantly, our students have had with the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

After receiving a six-year accreditation and a second six-year renewal from the Council of Occupational Education (COE), Miami Regional University decided to change accrediting agencies to an organization that could accredit the higher-level degrees that our students desired. The University selected ACICS and received a four-year accreditation in December 2014.

Since the University started the accreditation process with ACICS four years ago, all of the agency's personnel have been professional, accessible, and knowledgeable. The ACICS standards are strict and are geared to provide quality education to our students, while ensuring the University has a process to evaluate its outcomes and make continuous improvements. ACICS has further strengthened its standards since the NACIQI meeting of 2016. For example, ACICS enhanced its placement review process demanding monthly verification of employment given directly to ACICS by employer or third-party verifier, which may currently be one of the strictest placement standards in the industry.

I strongly endorse ACICS as an accrediting agency and believe its standards safely guard the future of its students.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Ophelia Sanchez  
President and CEO

700 South Royal Poinciana Blvd., ste 100  
Miami Springs, FL 33166  
305.442.9223 Fax: 305.442.8723

December 11, 2017



We Build Careers...Let us build one for you!

Mr. 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: Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)

Dear Mr. Bounds

This letter is written in support of Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Mountain State College has been in service to the Mid-Ohio Valley for 129 years. I have had the privilege of being a part of that history for 44 years. The founder of the College began the tradition in 1888 which is still followed today. It is a tradition rich in high standards and excellence. It has the distinction of training the first woman stenographer to a President of the United States. It also was one of the first College's in the United States to establish an substance abuse program.

The College was first accredited in 1950's by the Accrediting Commission for Business Schools now known as Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Given our history with ACICS and my experience working with other accrediting agencies, I strongly support the efforts that ACICS has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards and its current effort to seek recognition by the United States Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

Sincerely

(b)(6)

Judith Sutton  
President

enclosures



American  
Institute of  
Medical  
Sciences &  
Education

## AIMS EDUCATION

4500 New Brunswick Ave, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Phone: (908) 222-0002 Fax: (908) 450-6111

[WWW.AIMSEDCATION.EDU](http://WWW.AIMSEDCATION.EDU)

*Excellence & Success*

March 3, 2017

Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam  
Vice President - Accreditation  
ACICS

Subject: Voluntary withdrawal of ACICS accreditation

Dear Ms. Walters-Gilliam,

This letter is to officially notify you that AIMS Education would like to voluntarily withdraw from its accreditation by ACICS effective March 3, 2017. On behalf of our team at AIMS, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank ACICS for serving as an accrediting agency for our institution. We strongly believe that we have learned a lot throughout the accreditation process as well as after by working towards continually meeting the high standards that ACICS expects its member schools to maintain.

Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to continue being institutionally accredited by two agencies and must withdraw our ACICS accreditation. Should anything change in the future, we will reach out to you to discuss our options for re-applying.

Once again, I thank you for all the guidance that we have received from ACICS team members throughout the accreditation term.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Swati Patel, BS, RDMS, RVT  
President  
AIMS Education

August 28, 2018

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President/CEO  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools  
750 First Street NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

RE: Ohio Valley College of Technology, ACICS ID Number 00011157  
Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation

Dear Ms. Edwards:

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that my institution is voluntarily withdrawing our accreditation with ACICS effective August 17, 2017. We have been with ACICS from the start of our accreditation and many from our organization have served as ACICS evaluators and commissioners over the years, but unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of ACICS' future status with the US Department of Education we saw no other course than to seek accreditation with another agency. Effective August 17, 2017, we received accreditation from the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. We have notified the US Department of Education of this change and are completing this transition by notifying ACICS.

Thank you for your many years of service to our group of colleges. We wish nothing but the best for you and your agency moving forward.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Scott S. Rogers,  
Campus President



148 Willey Street, Morgantown, WV

304-296-8282  
Fax 304-581-6990  
www.wvjc.edu

August 28, 2018

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President/CEO  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools  
750 First Street NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

RE: Voluntary withdrawal of Accreditation:  
00010492 – West Virginia Junior College – Morgantown, WV  
00010523 – Pennsylvania Institute of Health and Technology – Mt. Braddock, PA

Dear Ms. Edwards:

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that my institution is voluntarily withdrawing our accreditation with ACICS effective August 23, 2017. We have been with ACICS from the start of our accreditation and many from our organization have served as ACICS evaluators and commissioners over the years, but unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of ACICS' future status with the US Department of Education we saw no other course than to seek accreditation with another agency. Effective August 23, 2017 we received accreditation from the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. We have notified the US Department Education of this change and are completing this transition by notifying ACICS.

Thank you for your many years of service to our group of colleges. We wish nothing but the best for you and your agency moving forward.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Chad T. Callen  
Campus President/Owner



1000 VIRGINIA STREET EAST • CHARLESTON, WV 25301  
304-345-2820 • 1-800-924-5208 • Fax: 304-345-1425

August 28, 2018

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President/CEO  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools  
750 First Street NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

RE: West Virginia Junior College,  
Charleston Campus ID: 00010481, Bridgeport Campus ID: 00019725  
Voluntary withdrawal of Accreditation

Dear Ms. Edwards:

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that my institution is voluntarily withdrawing our accreditation with ACICS effective August 21, 2017 for Charleston/Bridgeport. We have been with ACICS from the start of our accreditation and many from our organization have served as ACICS evaluators and commissioners over the years, but unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of ACICS' future status with the US Department of Education we saw no other course than to seek accreditation with another agency. Effective August 21, 2017 we received accreditation from the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. We have notified the US Department of Education of this change and are completing this transition by notifying ACICS.

Thank you for your many years of service to our group of colleges. We wish nothing but the best for you and your agency moving forward.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Michelle Miles  
Campus President

*"Great Career, Great Life"*

# SouthHills

School of Business & Technology

*Changing Lives Since 1970*

October 5, 2017

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street NE  
Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

Dear Ms. Edwards:

**Subject: Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation (00015282)**

South Hills School of Business & Technology is requesting Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation effective immediately from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). The Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation applies to the following South Hills entities:

- **Corporation:** South Hills Secretarial School, Inc, State College, PA (00015282)
- **Main:** South Hills School of Business & Technology, State College, PA (00010814)
- **Learning Site:** South Hills School of Business & Technology, State College, PA (00023305)
- **Learning Site:** South Hills School of Business & Technology, Lewistown, PA (00016305)
- **Branch:** South Hills School of Business & Technology, Altoona, PA (00019244)

South Hills School of Business & Technology has received approval for Initial Accreditation from Accrediting Commission of Career School and Colleges (ACCSC) effective September 28, 2017.

Thank you for your years of working with us and we wish you the best for your future. Should you require additional information, please contact me at (814) 234-7755, (b)(6)

Kindest regards,

(b)(6)

S. Paul Mazza, III  
President

## STATE COLLEGE

480 Waupelani Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
statecollege@southhills.edu  
Phone 814-234-7755

## ALTOONA

508 58th Street  
Altoona, PA 16602  
altoona@southhills.edu  
Phone 814-944-6134

## LEWISTOWN

124 East Market Street  
Lewistown, PA 17044  
lewistown@southhills.edu  
Phone 717-248-8140

southhills.edu

1-888-282-7427



# BRADFORD SCHOOL

October 30, 2017

Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam  
Vice President of Accreditation  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street, NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

Dear Ms. Walters-Gilliam:

Please let this letter serve as formal notification of voluntary withdrawal of institutional accreditation from ACICS by Bradford School in Columbus, Ohio (#00010550), effective the date of this letter. We appreciate the longstanding relationship that Bradford School shared with ACICS and wish your institution success as it moves forward.

If you have any questions about this notification or need additional information, please let me know.

Cordially,

(b)(6)

Dennis Bartels  
President



UNIVERSIDAD  
**SAN IGNACIO  
DE LOYOLA**

Av. La Fontana 750  
La Molina, Lima - Perú  
tel (511) 317 1000  
www.usil.edu.pe

Lima, December 01, 2017

ACICS ID: 00061155 (MC)

Via e-mail and regular mail

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street, NE Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

**Subject: Renewal of accreditation denial**

UNIVERSIDAD SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA La Molina, Lima	ID CODE. 00061155 (MC)
UNIVERSIDAD SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA Independencia, Lima	ID CODE: 00233044 (BC)

In response to your letter of August 14<sup>th</sup> informing us of the renewal of our institution's accreditation by ACICS, we state the following:

We appreciate your agency's efforts to remain one of the most prestigious accreditation agencies recognized by the US Department of Education.

New Peruvian regulations establish that every agency granting accreditation to educational institutions in Peru must be authorized by SINEACE (National System for Accreditation of Higher Education). Therefore, we are unable to continue with the ACICS accreditation renewal process. Currently, our institution is working on the national accreditation process, which is required by law.

We are very grateful to ACICS, because you gave us the opportunity to be recognized as an institution that strives for high quality education in our country.

Thank you very much, and we hope to have the opportunity to work together in the future.



(b)(6)

Ramiro Salas Bravo  
President

cc: Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam, ACICS Vice President of Accreditation  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Accreditation and State Liaison, US Department of  
Education (b)(6)



October 23, 2017

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street, NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4233

RE – Voluntary Withdrawal of ACICS accreditation

Please accept this letter as official notification of Center for Advanced Legal Studies' intent to voluntarily withdraw its accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

We, like all ACICS accredited colleges, have remained hopeful that recognition by the Department would return in a timely manner. Unfortunately, this doesn't appear to be the case.

Center for Advanced Legal Studies maintains its accreditation through the Commission of the Council of Occupational Education so this withdrawal does not affect our relationship with the Department.

We were one of the more recent schools to gain accreditation through ACICS. Our Initial accreditation was awarded in March, 2016, so while we did not experience a long-lasting relationship, we can attest to the validity of the ACICS accreditation process and its resolve to hold colleges to the highest ethical and educational standards. We appreciated the scrutiny.

Please let us know if this letter is sufficient to voluntary withdraw our accreditation from ACICS, or if there are other steps we need to complete to finalize the process.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Doyle Happe  
President/Co-founder  
Center for Advanced Legal Studies



November 15, 2017

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Michelle Edwards  
President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street NE  
Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

Dear Ms. Michelle Edwards:

I am writing to voluntarily withdraw the accreditation of Douglas Education Center (DEC) from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), effective immediately.

Our institution is proud of the longstanding relationship and recognition we have sustained with ACICS over the last several decades. Due to the ongoing uncertainty regarding ACICS and its recognition with the United States Department of Education, DEC made the decision to secure accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). Attached is DEC's acceptance letter from ACCSC, dated November 14, 2017.

We wish you and ACICS all the very best.

Warm Regards,

(b)(6)

Jeffrey Imbrescia  
CEO/President  
Douglas Education Center  
130 Seventh Street  
Monessen, PA 15062

(b)(6)

Enclosure



EAGLE GATE COLLEGE GROUP

December 4, 2017

Michelle Edwards  
President  
ACICS  
750 First Street NE  
Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Michelle,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that Eagle Gate College, Murray (00011200), Eagle Gate College, Layton (00021444) and Provo College (00053102) are withdrawing from our voluntary accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools.

As you know, we have had a long association with the Council and it is with heavy heart and disappointment that I write this letter. We wish great success for you, the staff and the commissioners in your continued efforts to right the ship.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Chuck Ericson  
President  
Eagle Gate College Group



595 Hirst Road, Newlands  
P.O. Box 136 Grand Cayman KY1-1501 Cayman Islands  
Campus: 345.947.1100  
icci.edu.ky

June 20, 2017

Mr. Roger J. Williams  
Interim President  
ACICS  
750 First Street NE  
Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing to let you know that by action of the ICCI Board of Trustees in the June Board Meeting (6/17/17) board members approved a recommendation to voluntarily withdraw membership from ACICS effectively immediately.

We are requesting any further guidance beyond this letter about forms or procedures that are needed to complete this process, and would very much appreciate an acknowledgement from ACICS recognizing this voluntary withdrawal process has been completed.

Additionally, we are requesting that the International College of The Cayman Islands be removed from all of your membership listings, and that your website is updated to note the date of our voluntary withdrawal.

I would like to acknowledge and thank ACICS for its work with the college since our first accreditation in 1979. Our students have benefited from participating in the process of continuous institutional improvement over the years.

Thank you for your timely attention to this request. I look forward to your response at the earliest.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of Mike Mannisto. The text "(b)(6)" is written in the top-left corner of the box.

Mike Mannisto  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Cc: ICCI Board of Trustees

Dr. Aleza Beverly, Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Interim President  
Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam, ACICS Vice President of Accreditation



**NEW YORK INSTITUTE  
OF  
ENGLISH AND BUSINESS**

---

June 30, 2017

Mr. Roger J. Williams  
Interim CEO and President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street, NE Suite 980  
Washington DC 20002-4223

Re: Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter is to advise ACICS of NYIEB's voluntary withdrawal of accreditation effective June 30, 2017.

It has been an honor and privilege to have known ACICS professionally for more than two decades.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Peter Kolaczko  
President



August 29, 2017

Michelle Edwards  
President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: SAE Institute- Atlanta (ID Code 00031682)

Dear Ms. Williams:

SAE Institute Atlanta (ID Code 00031682) is voluntarily withdrawing its accreditation with the Council effective immediately. The campus is becoming a branch of SAE Institute of Technology – Nashville that is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges.

The institution appreciates the relationship it maintained with the Council.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Todd S. Clark  
Campus Director  
(404) 994-3269

cc: Scott Jones, CEO, Navitas Careers & Industry  
Michael Bottrill, President and General Manager  
Dr. Michele Ernst, Dean



October 30, 2017

Michelle Edwards  
President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: SAE Institute of Technology- New York (ID Code 00245683)

Dear Ms. Williams:

SAE Institute of Technology - New York (ID Code 00245683) is voluntarily withdrawing its accreditation with the Council effective immediately. The institution is pursuing institutional accreditation with the Accrediting Commission for Continuing Education and Training and must concentrate its resources on that process.

The institution appreciates the relationship it maintained with the Council.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Michael Bottrill,  
President and General Manager  
SAE North America

cc: Scott Jones, CEO, Navitas Careers & Industry  
Robert Aguiar, Campus Director  
Dr. Michele Ernst, Dean

 **Spencerian College**  
*Quality Education Since 1892*

*Part of The Sullivan University System*

4627 Dixie Highway | Louisville, Kentucky 40216  
502-447-1000 | 800-264-1799 | 502-447-4574 fax | spencerian.edu

VIA E-mail (Hard Copy to Follow)

December 12, 2017

Ms. Michelle Edwards, President  
Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street N.E., Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Spencerian College – Louisville 00010506(MC)  
Spencerian College – Lexington 00015661(BC)

Dear Ms. Edwards,

This letter is to inform the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools that Spencerian College of Louisville and Spencerian College of Lexington are both voluntarily withdrawing their accreditation with ACICS effective December 12, 2017. It is with a heavy heart that we withdraw our accreditation since Spencerian College is one of the five remaining institutions that assisted in the founding of ACICS.

We wish ACICS the best in the future as they move toward regaining recognition by the Department of Education.

Sincerely

(b)(6)

Jan Gordon  
Executive Director



October 24, 2017

Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam  
Vice President of Accreditation  
ACICS  
750 First Street, NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

Dear Ms. Walters-Gilliam:

Please let this letter serve as formal notification of voluntary withdrawal of institutional accreditation from ACICS by the Vet Tech Institute of Houston (#00010596), effective the date of this letter. We appreciate the longstanding relationship that Vet Tech Institute of Houston shared with ACICS and wish your institution success as it moves forward.

If you have any questions about this notification or need additional information, please let me know.

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Elbert Hamilton, Jr.  
Director/Chief Academic Officer

December 12, 2017

Ms. Michelle Edwards  
President/CEO  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First St NE Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation

Dear Ms. Edwards;

It is painful to notify the Council that Columbia College (Institution ID: 00068978) voluntarily withdraws its institutional accreditation.

The school is currently accredited by Council on Occupational Education (COE) but tried hard to maintain dual accreditation with the ACICS for institutional development but current situation related to the federal and state authorities make it extremely tough to maintain the multiple approval.

The College has been recently awarded renewal of the accreditation from the COE, effective until the end of 2021 and the school withdrew all programs which are not approved by the COE to meet their compliance.

We know the Council is actively preparing the process for recognition from the U.S. Department of Education and hope to work together near future once the process is successfully completed.

Your assistance and support of the request is greatly appreciated. Please accept our withdrawal prior to revocation actions related to sustaining fees. Should the Council require additional information or have questions and or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 703-206-0508 (phone), 703-206-0488 (fax), or [president@ccdc.edu](mailto:president@ccdc.edu) (email).

Sincerely,



Richard K. Kim  
President  
Columbia College  
(703)206-0508  
[president@ccdc.edu](mailto:president@ccdc.edu)

**From:** [Roger J Williams](#)  
**To:** [Katie Morrison](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Wright Graduate University is now accredited by DEAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 8:43:41 AM

---

Good morning Katie,

FYI: please process the resignation letter.

Roger J. Williams  
Interim President

(b)(6)

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**From:** Roger J Williams (b)(6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 7:29 AM  
**To:** Kate Holmquest (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Michael Zwell (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Wright Graduate University is now accredited by DEAC

Thank you Kate and congratulations. You never stumbled along the difficult path to the present and by all accounts have garnered equal measures of respect and appreciation. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and will follow-up shortly with a letter responsive to your resignation of accreditation with ACICS.

Best Regards,

Roger

Roger J. Williams  
Interim President

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Kate Holmquest (b)(6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 3:52 PM  
**To:** Roger J Williams (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Michael Zwell (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Wright Graduate University is now accredited by DEAC

Dear Roger,

On behalf of the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential, I would like to thank you for all the support we have received from ACICS.

We just received word that on June 14, 2017, DEAC took action to grant WGU accreditation for three years through June 2020. This email is to inform you that effective immediately are withdrawing from membership in

ACICS. I have attached the accreditation letter from DEAC with this email.

If there is any other information you need from us, please let me know.

Thank you for all the good work ACICS has done and is doing, for WGU and all the other member schools. We wish you the best!

Sincerely,

**Kate Holmquest**

Campus Director, Wright Graduate University

[www.wrightgrad.edu](http://www.wrightgrad.edu)

Residential Campus:

N7698 County Highway H | Elkhorn, WI 53121

(b)(6)

Chicago Learning Site & Auxiliary Administrative Offices:

445 E. Ohio, Suite 400 | Chicago, IL 60611

Ofc: 312-645-8300 | Fax: 312-645-8333

(b)(6)

October 3, 2017

Ms. Michelle Edwards, President  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street NE, Suite 980  
Washington D.C. 20002-4223

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of Zenith Education Group, I want to thank you, members of the Council and your staff for the support and assistance that we have received over many years. As you may be aware, as part of our efforts to improve efficiency and promote compliance, approximately two years ago, we made the decision to transition all of our schools to one national accreditor—ACCSC. This was not an easy decision and we appreciate the guidance and counsel that we have received from ACICS during this journey. All of our active schools (those not in teach-out) have now received their initial grants of accreditation from ACCSC. We are ready to begin the process of relinquishing our ACICS accreditation for several of our schools.

We wish to immediately relinquish ACICS accreditation for the following schools:

Altierus Career College-Chesapeake, Virginia (ID: 00016100)  
Everest University-Orange Park, Florida (ID: 00020976)  
Altierus Career College-Thornton, Colorado (ID: 00011101)  
Altierus Career College-Everett, Washington (ID: 00010407)  
Altierus Career College-Tacoma, Washington (ID: 00020562)  
Altierus Career College-Woodbridge, Virginia (ID: 00147010)  
Altierus Career College-Tigard, Oregon (ID: 00024726)

At several campuses, we have submitted new program applications for programs that ACICS has approved but were not part of the ACCSC onsite review during the initial grant of accreditation process. We expect to receive these program approvals from ACCSC in November and will relinquish ACICS accreditation for the following campuses, once the various program approvals are received:

Altierus Career College-Colorado Springs, Colorado (ID: 00010219)  
Altierus Career College-Fort Worth South, Texas (ID: 00036352)  
Altierus Career College-Henderson, Nevada (ID: 00011333)  
Altierus Career College-Arlington (Mid-Cities), Texas (ID: 00020754)

Everest University-Tampa Florida (ID: 00011334) will remain ACICS accredited through June 30, 2018. This is necessary because the Tampa campus is the main branch for the Everest University campuses located in South Orlando and Brandon and that are currently in teach-out.

(Page 2 of 2)

If you have any questions or concerns, please call John Andrews, Vice President, Accreditation and Licensing. He can be reached at (b)(6) or please call me at (b)(6) or email me at (b)(6)

Sincerely Yours,

(b)(6)

Peter J. Taylor  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Zenith Education Group