

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-16

Good Afternoon,

As an instructor and also as an administrator, I have had the experience of getting our school accredited by working with ACICS on accreditation related policies and procedures. We recently got accredited by ACICS after more than three years of hard work of aligning our school with the standards set by the ACICS.

ACICS has always reinforced working for the benefit of students by keeping in mind the standards set by the accrediting council. As a school, we find that the standards set by ACICS match with other accrediting councils. They have certainly worked on their shortcomings and have tremendously improved them from previous years by raising their standards even further.

The future of many other students like our school depends on the recognition of ACICS. ACICS had been a reputed accreditation agency and was working to protect academic freedom and options for students.

If ACICS gets derecognized, the future of thousands of students will be at stake. This action will shake the faith of these students on the accreditation councils and also their schools.

I strongly believe that they should be given a chance in continuing to review institutions standards to ensure a quality educational experience for students.

Thank you.

Dinny Mathew MPH, MBBS, RDCS
Coordinator of Education Affairs



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*Approved by Office of Higher Education
State of Connecticut*

February 14th, 2018

Good Afternoon,

I work at a school where the students' needs always come first. It is my job as an Enrollment Administrator to be transparent with all prospective students I meet. I have seen firsthand the countless hours administration has devoted into ensuring student success. Students are made aware of the academic requirements they need to achieve in order to pass and complete the program. From orientation to graduation and then job placement, the administration and instructors work together to empower students with the knowledge and skills in order to be successful in the real world.

There are standards that each program must meet in order to ensure that student success is possible. Many individuals want to ensure that the school they select meets the standard and criteria that constitutes as quality education, which is the reason accreditation is an important part of the education system.

ACICS has been the leading accreditation agency protecting academic freedom and student choice. I believe they should continue to review institutions standards to ensure a quality educational experience for students.

ACICS states in their mission statement their goal is to "implement standards that ensure institutional accountability while encouraging institutional growth..."; I believe ACICS should be allowed that same growth. Let us move past binary decisions regarding quality and allow the agency to grow and improve their system of institutional approval. The students should always be the first concern, and that should be the main reason to reinstate the recognition of ACICS.

Sincerely,

Lauren Fox

Enrollment Administrator

American Institute of Healthcare and Technology

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Good Afternoon,

I work at a school which received their accreditation by ACICS after its derecognition by the Education Department. This was school's first accreditation. Due to this, I have firsthand experience with ACICS's accreditation policies and procedures including student outcome standards.

Since it's derecognition, school applied for the accreditation with different agency where our application is still in process. During this period, we realized that standards of this other accreditation agency are similar or may be more lenient in some cases.

I strongly believe reinstating ACICS will help students to achieve their goals and succeed.

Ravish Shah, MS
Administrative Director



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