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-44
December 20, 2017

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

Dear Director Bounds:

This letter of support is on behalf of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

ACEN is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). As you know, the purpose of ACEN is to provide specialized accreditation for all types of nursing education programs, including clinical doctorate/DNP specialist certificate programs, master's/post-master's certificate programs, baccalaureate programs, associate degree programs, diploma programs, and clinical programs. ACEN accredits nursing education programs in secondary, postsecondary, and hospital-based governing organizations that offer certificate, diploma, or degree-level nursing education programs. Programs offered by governing organizations accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) are CHEA recognized and accepted by ACEN as institutional accrediting agencies. ACEN has reaffirmed its full recognition of ACICS by the ACEN to at least 2026 and this acceptance continues to the present and beyond. One specific ACEN eligibility requirement is a governing organization sponsoring a nursing education program accredited by ACEN must be institutionally accredited by an ACEN-recognized institutional accrediting agency.
As a CHEA recognized accreditor, ACICS currently meets the institutional accrediting agency criteria for ACEN specialized accreditation. In turn, ACEN or CCNE specialized accreditation is a requirement for nursing education programs in Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Illinois, Washington, and the District of Columbia. While specialized accreditation is not required by other states, many nursing education programs in those states hold specialized accreditation.

I can be reached at 404-975-5000 or mstoll@acenursing.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marsal P. Stoll, EdD, MSN
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Michelle Edwards
   President, ACICS