

**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., E.Ds.  
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 programs, diploma programs, and practical programs. ACEN accredits nursing education programs in secondary, postsecondary, and hospital-based governing organizations that offer certificate, diploma, or degree, including nursing education programs offered by governing organizations accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

ACICS is CHEA recognized and accepted by ACEN as an institutional accrediting agency. ACEN has had previously done the acceptance of ACICS by the ACEN to at least 2008 and this acceptance continues to the present day. [ACEN Eligibility Requirements](#), page 8. 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.

# ACEN

U.S. Department of Education

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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](mailto:mstoll@acenursing.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Marsal P. Stoll, EdD, MSN  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Michelle Edwards  
President, ACICS