

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-48

(b)(6)

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

December 13, 2017

Dear Director Bounds:

I am writing to you in my capacity as a long-time business owner, employer and Practitioner in the Cosmetology/Barbering/Esthetics/Fashion Merchandising and Marketing career fields, which I entered after obtaining state licensure in cosmetology and instructing cosmetology from Arkansas Tech University, formally known as River Valley Vocational School. I am currently employed as Owner/Operator of Precision Cutz Salon and Spa, Inc. (among other business') in St. Paul, Arkansas. I write to provide general information, evidence and support of the acceptance and professional opinions of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

I graduated from Arkansas Tech University with a teaching certification in 1985 and have been employed as President and CEO of C and S Property Management for 32 years. My educational background includes all phases of the beauty profession as well as sales and merchandising.

As an evaluator having participated in or conducted more than 450 institutional program reviews for ACICS as well as for other accrediting bodies, it is my experience that ACICS is accepted by practitioners in this occupation as an accrediting agency of schools that offer programs that produce qualified graduates for the Cosmetology/Barbering/Aesthetics and Retail/Fashion Merchandising fields or at least as qualified as those from institutions accredited by other agencies. Competency based standards established and cultivated to ensure proficiency include: developed criteria for a complete and detailed review of syllabi, curriculum and lesson plans, etc; observation of theory and classroom activities, interviews with students, faculty and staff are very much a part of the process; a thorough inspection of instructional space and facilities, educational materials and content, industry relevant and professional equipment, products, supplies as well as generally accepted business practices and procedures; a complete review of student academic files for monitoring grading procedures, Satisfactory Academic Progress, State licensure statistics and exam pass rates in preparation for employment; and last but not least actual verification of employment via work site visits and or phone calls to verify actual employment. I, as a potential employer of graduates of such educational programs, appreciate the rigorous analysis of educational content and subject matter of programs offered by vocational or technical and career schools.

Please consider this letter as support for ACICS's wide acceptance by a practitioner in the professional career of cosmetology/barbering/ aesthetics, for which ACICS accredited schools prepare graduates for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

Please feel free to contact me by calling (b)(6) or email (b)(6) yahoo.com in connection with this letter of support.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Arkansas licensed cosmetology instructor and small business owner/employer.
Past President of The Arkansas State Board of Cosmetology
Subject Matter Expert for National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology

(b)(6)

- **EDUCATION:**

1984 graduate of St. Paul High School, St. Paul Ar
1986 graduate of Rita's Hair/Fashion Design Institute Fayetteville, Ar
1500 hours of Cosmetology/Fashion training
Licensed Cosmetologist/ Fashion Stylist
Licensed Cosmetology Instructor
Licensed Salon/Spa Owner

- **POST GRADUATE STUDIES:**

Fashion Focus: which includes but is not limited to, Fashion Trends, Buying History or Color and Business, Merchandising, Apparel Retail and Sales.

Modeling and Costumes
Certified Color and Fabric/ Fashion Analyst

- **EMPLOYMENT:**

Owns and Operates Boutique and full-service Salon & Spa
Est. 1986

- **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Certified National Subject Matter Expert, Certified National Examiner, Nationally Certified Rater

National-Interstate Council of State Board of Cosmetology, Inc Committees served: Education, Policies and Procedures. Legislative, Budget and Audit, Textbook, and Skin Care Advisory Panel.

Principals of Learning and Methodology, Text Design, Question and Answer Weights, Critical Criteria for Core Development, Subject Matter and Task Statements establishing Objective and Evaluating Student Performances.

Attends Regional and National Conferences annually, with respect to Professional Development and Continuing Educational programing and Break out sessions, The latest being in Las Vegas March 2010. Participated in sessions such as "How to be a better Board member". "Conflict of Interest" " The Law, the Board and You" Fashion Design and Merchandising, Display Building, Retail Biz., etc.

- **ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY:**

Office of President 2007- 2011
Office of President 1999, 2000, 2001
Office of 2ND Vice President 1998

Responsibilities include but are not limited to; Design and Develop State Mandates, Curriculum, administer practical examinations and conduct Board meetings, disciplinary action and civil penalty hearings, in addition to general business.

Administered practical exams to qualifying candidates/students, License and regulate 30,000 licensed practioners and 5000 establishments throughout the State of Arkansas

Arkansas State Board practical exam review 3 or more time per year, and review of Board Rules and Regulations, Statutes, and Mandates for accuracy and consistency.

- **NATIONAL ACCREDITING COMMISSION OF COSMETOLOGY ART AND SCIENCES:**

Certified On-site Evaluator, serves as evaluator for schools seeking national accreditation. Compliance of critical educational standards and make recommendations accordingly.

Inspect Instructional faculty/staff, student support services, instructional supplies, space and facilities, etc. Calculation and assessment of credited clock hours, course curriculum, syllabus, student academic files, and counseling records in accordance with state regulation.

Reviews programs for schools seeking to incorporate new programs or course of study, Assesses for educational compliance and quality of courses, assuring the program offers all the necessary professional elements and components.

- **SKILL'S USA "VICA" VOCATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CLUBS OF AMERICA:**

Serves as a competition judge for students with various hours of secondary and post-secondary education/training and assess skill abilities in written, oral and practical form, as to professional technical standards, criteria of task accomplishments and generally accepted industry practices and assign points accordingly

Respectfully submitted,

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A rectangular box with a black border, filled with a solid light blue color, used to redact the signature of the sender.