

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-8

34 CFR 600.13(a)
Acceptance of ACICS Standards, Policies, Procedures and Decisions
By
ACICS Affiliated Educators

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 in my role as a Lead Pharmacy Technician and Massage Therapy Program Instructor for the Harris School of Business in Linwood, New Jersey to provide evidence that supports the acceptance of the standards, policies, procedures and decisions of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (“ACICS”).

In my current role, my responsibilities include instructing a comprehensive 7 month classroom based course load covering all aspects of ambulatory, institutional, out-patient, closed door and compounding pharmacy settings. I also supervise enrolled students for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam and Massage Therapy National Certification Exam. I coordinate intern site rotations, grow student retention rates by ensuring productive course outlines relative to current industry trends, resolve issues, update and change classroom instructional models to improve organizational effectiveness and student productivity.

I 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 an educator at the Harris School of Business, which is a member of the Premier Education Group and current ACICS accredited institution, I have familiarity with ACICS criteria, policies, procedures and decisions. I have been asked to volunteer on ACICS site visit teams as a curriculum specialist as well as on other committee accrediting boards which supported the ACICS review, revision of standards and agency policies and procedures.

My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Biology, a Certified Pharmacy Technician for over 18 years and a New York Licensed Massage Therapist with New Jersey registration and National Certification. I also have several years of experience participating as a Curriculum Specialist volunteer for another accrediting agency and have a point of reference, therefore, to compare ACICS Criteria and policies against those of other recognized accrediting agencies.

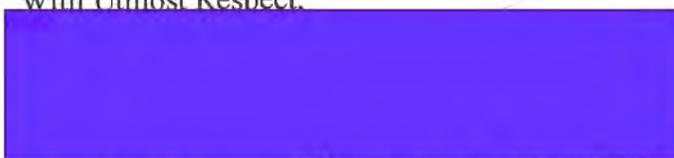
In my experience, ACICS Criteria, policies, procedures, and decisions and its application of same to accredited institutions, are at least as rigorous as those of other recognized accrediting agencies with which I have experience including ACCET. The strengths of specific ACICS standards, policies, procedures and decisions, include the areas of: institutional career mission, institutional organization and administration, admissions and marketing, student relations, satisfactory student progress, consumer information, faculty evaluation, library and resources, facilities and equipment, program effectiveness, outcomes (graduation, placement, and licensing benchmarks) which are well above any standard evaluation.

In my experience, ACICS standards are accepted by educators as effective in ensuring that graduates from ACICS accredited institutions are prepared for the occupations for which the programs prepared graduates and also prepare students to 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 educators for purposes of 34 C.F.R. 600.13(a).

I can be reached at (201) 970-0836 or doldenhage@gmail.com in connection with this letter of support.

With Utmost Respect,



David G. Oldenhage, BS, CPhT, LMT, NCBTMB
Lead Pharmacy Technician Program Instructor
Massage Therapy Program Instructor
Harris School of Business
1201 New Road
Linwood, New Jersey 08221



American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dec. 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 200202

Letter of support from American University of America in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I have taught for nearly 2 decades and currently serve as the Academic Advisor for the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AUBiH). I am considered one of the Old Guard of Ex-Pats that have worked in American Education in a foreign field for the past 18 years. My resume is likewise attached to certify my credentials.

This letter is to communicate the values that have benefited our Institution and likewise the ways in which ACICS has benefited the greater Bosnian Education Institutions thru our circle of Influence with other educators with Best Practices and Standards of Conduct and Institutional Integrity. As a country struggling with a Post-Socialist backdrop and struggling National identity, ACICS has provided framework, counsel, and clear standards for academic excellence. Our students recognize that some of the conflicts in Bosnian education arise from Bosnian nationalistic efforts and are unrelated to Academic Integrity. Whereas, ACICS efforts and accreditation has been the standard that distinguishes AUBiH from Bosnian State Schools.

As an educator, I strongly support the efforts ACICS takes to strengthen Academic standards and it's continuing pursuit of excellence. This letter should be viewed as the support for restoration of ACICS accreditation.

[Redacted signature area]

Prof. Tom Trowbridge
Academic Advisor/ Academic Affairs

cc Student Services

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Address Tuzla: Mije Keroševića Guje 3, 75000 Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Tel: +387 (0)35 321 050; Fax: +387 (0)35 321 068
E-mail: contact@aubih.edu Web: <http://www.aubih.edu>



December 13, 2017

Mr. Herman Bounds, Jr.
Director, Accreditation Group
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education
LJB Building, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AUBiH), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies and ministries. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know whom to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their queries.

As an educator at AUBiH, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of my support for the agency and the quality it ensures for institutes of higher education.

Sincerely,


Padraic F. McMickle, MPhil

Faculty Member at the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina

American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mije Keroševića Guje 3, 75000 Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
E-mail: contact@aubih.edu

Tel: +387 35 321 050; Fax: +387 35 340 100
Web: <http://www.aubih.edu>

ID Broj: 4209750670009



**SOUTHERN STATES
UNIVERSITY**

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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as a faculty member at Southern States University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). You can find my profile on the list of faculty: <http://www.ssu.edu/academics/faculty/>

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at Southern States University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,



Shane C. Riley, Dr.B.A.
sriley@ssu.edu

Fashion Valley Campus
123 Camino de la Reina
Suite 100 East
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 298-1829

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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) 786-3788

info@ssu.edu



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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty member at California International Business University (CIBU), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at CIBU, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

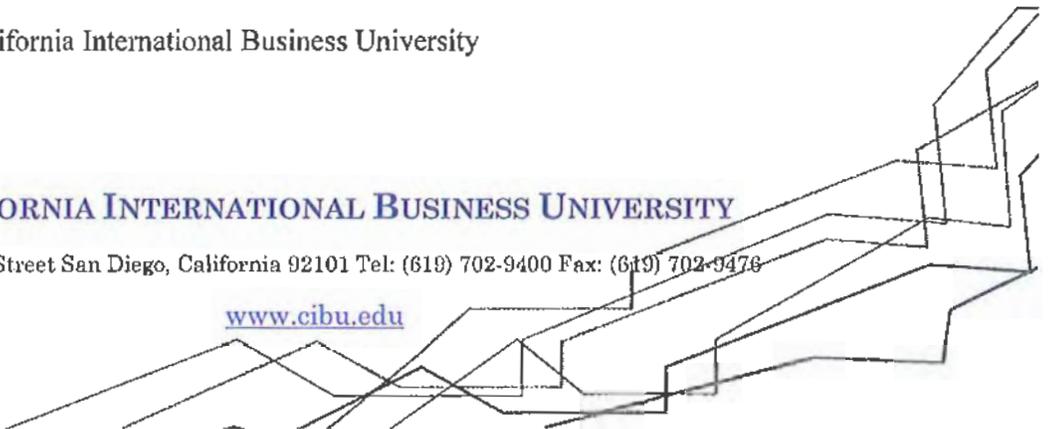
Sincerely,

Eddie C. Sturgeon
Faculty Member at California International Business University

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

550 West B Street San Diego, California 92101 Tel: (619) 702-9400 Fax: (619) 702-9476

www.cibu.edu





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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty member at California International Business University (CIBU), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including the WASC Senior College and University Commission and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. ACICS criteria are clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at CIBU, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

It is regrettable that the quality of education offered by CIBU is undermined by the loss of ACICS recognition as an accrediting body of CIBU.

Sincerely,

Darius Ershadi

Darius Ershadi, Ph.D. (can.)

Faculty Member at University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
Faculty Member at California International Business University (CIBU)

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

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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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty member at California International Business University (CIBU), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by recognized accrediting agencies including the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). ACICS criteria is clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at CIBU, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,



Dr. Georg Schlueter, PhD, MSc, MBA
Faculty Member at California International Business University

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

550 West B Street San Diego, California 92101 Tel: (619) 702-9400 Fax: (619) 702-9476

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15 December 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: Letter of Support from Institutional Administrator/Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds,

I serve as the Dean of Academic Affairs and as Associate Professor of Finance in the American B.Sc. Program in Business Administration at Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My CV is attached for your reference.

With this letter, I would like to express my observation, as both an administrator and as an educator, that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This information is based on my experience as a faculty member in other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies, namely the:

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (University of Memphis, Christian Brothers University, LeMoyne-Owen College), and
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (University of Michigan, Jones International University), plus work with programs at other institutions represented by, *inter alia*, the above accreditors and the
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (e.g., the University of Hawai'i).

ACICS criteria are clearly stated, which enables us to craft policies that assure a quality education for our students. If any changes are made to the criteria, it has been my experience that ACICS informs the institutions, providing details and rationale for the changes. Their workshops have been especially helpful in this regard.

I strongly support the efforts that the Agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by academics such as myself, who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of my unconditional support for the Agency.

Collegially,
Sharon B. Pedersen, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Finance
Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College
American B.Sc. Program in Business Administration
Email: shp@brock.dk; Tel.: +45.2321.4669



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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as a full-time faculty member at Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at Niels Brock, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,



Thomas D. Eatmon Jr., PhD
Faculty Member at Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College





CALIFORNIA
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty member at California International Business University (CIBU), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including the WASC Senior College and University Commission. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at CIBU, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

A solid red rectangular box redacting the signature of Peter McLaughlin, J.D.

Peter McLaughlin, J.D.
Faculty Member at California International Business University

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

550 West B Street San Diego, California 92101 Tel: (619) 702-9400 Fax: (619) 702-9476

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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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty member at California International Business University (CIBU), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). UC San Diego Extension – where I was a director - is accredited by WSCUC through the university. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at CIBU, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Haugh, M.Ed., SPHR, BCC
Faculty Member at California International Business University

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

550 West B Street San Diego, California 92101 Tel: (619) 702-9400 Fax: (619) 702-9476

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CALIFORNIA
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty member at California International Business University (CIBU), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including San Diego State University. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at CIBU, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

A redacted signature block, appearing as a solid black rectangle.

AVNEET SIDHU
Faculty Member at California International Business University

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

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CALIFORNIA
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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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty member at California International Business University (CIBU), which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures, and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including the WASC Senior College and University Commission. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, which allow institutional personnel to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As an educator at CIBU, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,


Tim Becker, DBA
Faculty Member at California International Business University

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

550 West B Street San Diego, California 92101 Tel: (619) 702-9400 Fax: (619) 702-9476

www.cibu.edu

[Letter of Support – Educator at ACICS Accredited Institution]

September 18, 2017

Dr. 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: Educator Letter of Support – 34 C.F.R. § 602.13

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at Fortis College, Online which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at Fortis, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Kathryn Sellers.

Kathryn Sellers, MS
[Educator at Fortis College]

Letter of Support – Educator at ACICS Accredited Institution

September 14, 2017

Dr. 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: Educator Letter of Support – 34 C.F.R. § 602.13

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as Director of Business programs at American National University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

In my opinion as an educator, the comparative strengths of the ACICS standards include

- tracking the completion rate of programs
- requiring in-service training of all faculty
- tracking the graduate placement rates
- requiring and tracking employer surveys
- monitoring the financial capability of the institution
- tracking the programmatic retention rates

As an educator at American National University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek

recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,



Mathew S. George
Program Director - Business Administration
American National University
1813 East Main Street
Salem, VA 24153

Tel: 540.444.5233



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

December 8, 2017

Dear Mr. Bounds:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to attest to the rigor of practice exercised by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

As educator and scholar, I have had the honor to work for some of the best US state, private, and military institutions of higher education, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwestern Commission on Colleges and Universities, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, among others. While working at Miami Regional University, I can confirm that ACICS standards, policies, and procedures have been consistent with the requirements adopted by other regional and national accrediting bodies. Faculty and staff are regularly trained and updated on the best practices enforced by ACICS to ensure that educators foster high academic standards and provide quality education for the students. Thus, I can attest that, by implementing ACICS standards and procedures, Miami Regional University has successfully graduated professionals who are currently greatly valued in their field.

As a faculty member at Miami Regional University, I can attest that my colleagues and I are passionately dedicated to our profession, we hold high ethical and academic standards, and we are proud to make a difference in our students' lives and the lives of the patients looked for by our students. Therefore, I strongly support the efforts undertaken by ACICS to validate its standards and regain the recognition of the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

Please consider this letter as an expression of support for ACICS.

Yours sincerely,

Uliana Gancea, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English.



December 6, 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

Dear Mr. Bounds,

I am the Associate Dean and Associate Professor for the School of Graduate Studies at Miami Regional University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

In the spirit of support, it is with great pleasure that I take the time to write this letter to express my view as a leader and academician that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies.

This is supported through my experience, working with other institutions of higher education, accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

ACICS criteria is clearly identified, allowing school administrators to effectively implement policies to assure academic standards and provide quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As a member of the administrative and faculty team at Miami Regional University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Respectfully,


Karaei A. Camejo, DNP, ARNP, ACNP-BC
Associate Dean and Associate Professor
School of Graduate Studies



December 6, 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

Dear Mr. Bounds,

I am an Associate Professor and Chair of the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program for the School of Graduate Studies at Miami Regional University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

In the spirit of support, it is with great pleasure that I take the time to write this letter to express my view as a leader and academician that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies.

This is supported through my experience, working with other institutions of higher education, accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

ACICS criteria is clearly identified, allowing school administrators to effectively implement policies to assure academic standards and provide quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As a member of the administrative and faculty team at Miami Regional University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rose Marie Lewis', is written over a solid black rectangular redaction box.

Rose Marie Lewis, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC
Associate Professor and Chair of FNP Program
School of Graduate Studies



December 6, 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

Dear Mr. Bounds,

I am an Assistant Professor for the School of Graduate Studies at Miami Regional University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

In the spirit of support, it is with great pleasure that I take the time to write this letter to express my view as a leader and academician that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies.

This is supported through my experience, working with other institutions of higher education, accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

ACICS criteria is clearly identified, allowing school administrators to effectively implement policies to assure academic standards and provide quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes.

As a member of the graduate faculty at Miami Regional University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Respectfully,


Victor Zambrano, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC
Assistant Professor
School of Graduate Studies



**MIAMI REGIONAL UNIVERSITY
THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

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

December 6, 2017

I am Vice Dean and Professor in the Office of Academic Affairs at Miami Regional University. We are an institution currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

As an educator and administrator at MRU, I would like to further communicate my endorsement of ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions that are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. My endorsement is based on my experience of working at other institutions of higher education that are accredited by such recognized accrediting agencies as Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria are clearly stated, allowing school administrators to set policies that ensure a quality education for students. If changes are made to criteria, ACICS both informs the schools of these changes, and provides detailed rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to receive prompt responses to their questions.

Federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators and administrators such as myself who work at ACICS-accredited institutions. In this spirit of support, I stand firmly by the efforts of ACICS to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

Thank you for receiving this letter as an expression of my firm support for the agency.

Yours Truly,



Kandyce M. Richards, Ph.D., APN
Vice Dean and Professor
Office of Academic Affairs
Miami Regional University

December 7, 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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at Schiller International University which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). I am also an active member of the Madrid Campus Effectiveness Committee. I am a graduate of Schiller International University and also of Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. I am an official consultant for the Spanish Government (ICEX) Instituto de Comercio Exterior, I also own Avertica Consulting Group and have many years of international business experience, particularly in the US, Mexico and Canada as well as in Europe.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. In addition to meeting ACICS standards, the Madrid Campus of Schiller International University complies with local accreditation requirements for private Universities in Spain and our degree is recognized as equivalent a Bologna accredited degree in the Europe. This corresponds to regional accreditation in the USA according to NACES evaluations.

ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at Schiller International University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,



Edgar Barroso

Faculty Member at Schiller International University (Madrid Campus)

EBarroso@schiller.edu

December 7, 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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at Schiller International University which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). I also serve on the Campus Effectiveness Committee and am a Program Lead. I bring a unique background in the field of communications that includes a successful record in journalism, creative advertising, lobbying, cultural management and teaching at Spain's leading business school Instituto de Empresa. For twelve years, I managed the communications in Spain and Portugal of a top world corporation, developing a multi-faceted expertise in corporate communications, regulatory affairs and issues management. I hold a double major in Political Sciences and Sociology from Tel Aviv University and a Master in International Affairs from New York University

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. In addition to meeting ACICS standards, the Madrid Campus of Schiller International University complies with local accreditation requirements for private Universities in Spain and our degree is recognized as equivalent a Bologna accredited degree in the Europe. This corresponds to regional accreditation in the USA according to NACES evaluations.

ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at Schiller International University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,



Jose Pinto
Faculty Member at Schiller International University (Madrid Campus)
JBPinto@schiller.edu

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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at Schiller International University, Online which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at Schiller, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions.

Please consider this letter as an urgent request to take my 20 years' experience as National Marketing Manager with Bic Corporation and over 15 years instructing marketing classes at ACICS universities to continue sharing this institutional knowledge with future students.

Professor Henry Lachapelle

Adjunct Faculty

Schiller International University

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:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend reinstatement of ACICS as a national accreditor for higher education. Between regional accreditors and vocational accreditation bodies there is a large gap, and there is a real need for accreditors such as ACICS to evaluate and confirm academic career-oriented institutions such as IGlobal University. Vocational schools are highly skills-oriented which defines accreditation needs at a hands-on, highly-structured level oriented toward work in vocations such as heating and air conditioning, welding, auto mechanics and the like.

Our school does not fit into a strictly vocational model, neither are we a large university. Therefore we more properly fit into the model ACICS represents for mid-range, career-oriented academic institutions.

We have recently been subject to the painful process of aligning ourselves with ACCSC, a vocational school accrediting body. This is like fitting size twelve feet into size six shoes. Although we carefully examined all relevant ACCSC regulations, several issues emerged in a recent site visit that demonstrate this gap.

To “argue” and defend our position as an academic, career-oriented institution of higher education was challenging when discussing these matters with a vocational accreditor such as ACCSC, because the mind-set of a vocational approach is significantly different from that of a school with a more academic outlook. The value of higher education not only for its own sake but also for its practical application (using a scholar-practitioner model), is highly significant in our view, and does not fit well into a strictly vocational model.

Therefore, we feel that ACICS fills an important gap in United States accreditation of higher learning, and we would like to see it continue to provide accreditation for IGU and similar schools on a national level. For schools such as ours, a regional accreditation approach seems unnecessarily stringent and a vocational accreditation approach is not sufficiently academically oriented. The ACICS approach, with its decades of experience and long affiliation with the Department of Education, is the perfect approach for us and many similar schools, and we highly recommend its reinstatement with the U.S. Department of Education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hasan Karaburk, Vice President
IGlobal University (IGU), Vienna VA

Dec 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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at IGlobal University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at IGlobal University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Dr. Abed Almala,
Graduate Lead Faculty Member at IGlobal University, Vienna VA

Dec12, 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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at IGlobal University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at IGlobal University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Shelton Rhodes, PhD
Faculty Member at IGlobal University, Vienna, VA

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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as an adjunct faculty at IGlobal University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). My resume indicating my professional qualifications is attached for your reference.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at IGlobal University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Felipe H. Perdomo.

Felipe H. Perdomo, Ph.D.
Faculty Member at IGlobal University, Vienna, VA

December 15, 2017

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

Dear Department of Education Staff:

I am very proud of Bay Area Medical Academy's academic quality and the value students get for their education. To see groups of graduates, go on to fill positions at esteemed local hospitals fills me with immense gratification.

The curriculum at Bay Area Medical Academy is very thorough. We ensure our students are prepared for the occupational demands of Medical Assisting from start to finish. When they leave the classroom and go into their externships, I want them to be helpful, knowledgeable, and confident. To achieve this outcome, we train students through lectures, hands-on training, and simulation training with a curriculum that not only emphasizes the fundamentals of medical assisting, but also opens their eyes to the possibility of expanding upon their current healthcare career options.

I, and other faculty members, have worked at other much larger schools. The primary difference in my experience is the teaching staff at Bay Area Medical Academy have a much greater stake in the success of our students. This is evidenced by a number of practices we have collaboratively established with ACICS. One such practice is to integrate the professional experience into the classroom by creating opportunities for community involvement. We invite employers and employed graduates to speak about their facilities and the demands of the medical assisting profession. For example, we recently had Stanford Health Care and Zuckerberg S.F. General Hospital come to the campus to talk about their newest facilities, how to apply for opportunities, how to present themselves as attractive candidates, possible career ladders within their organizations, and the day-to-day duties of medical assistants.

Our faculty are very dedicated individuals who take pride in educating future medical assistants. We see our student's ability to succeed in the field as a reflection of our ability to properly prepare them for the expectations of clinical facilities. We never want to rely on a static curriculum with the expectation that

students will learn the most relevant skills once they enter the workplace. Instead, we also hold regular meetings with employers to review our curriculum to ensure the material is both relevant and current, as well as updated to reflect current practices within medical facilities; we want students to be successful in the classroom and the workplace, which is why our career services plays such a prominent role with not only our graduates but our current students as well. We prepare students by holding mock interviews, resume workshops, talks using our close relationships with employers and acquired knowledge of employers' needs.

ACICS has been very good in encouraging our institution to establish practices that reflect the primary mission of our school, to operate in the best interests of our students and their futures.

Best Regards,



Andrea Earby

Assistant M.A. Program Director

Lead Medical Assisting Instructor

December 15, 2017

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

Dear Department of Education Staff:

It is refreshing that the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and schools (ACICS) has core education values mirroring those of Bay Area Medical Academy. The ideals expressed during the Accreditation process were that students are the primary focus.

They scrutinized the hiring of staff to ensure our instructors met their standards for years of experience in their perspective fields, continuing education, and proven experience teaching within their discipline.

ACICS took great care and consideration when reviewing our educational goals and learning outcomes. In doing so, ACICS analyzed and dissected Bay Area Medical Academy's curriculum to verify our teaching goals covered more than the basics within students' chosen fields. It is very clear to us they want students to receive a well-rounded education that goes beyond the classroom didactic.

During our accreditation visits, ACICS closely examined every detail of our education process and curriculum. They asked probing questions regarding various aspects of our programs and sought explanations as to how lessons will benefit the student. Throughout it was clear ACICS wanted to ensure students were not only getting tangible value for their tuition and efforts, but a comprehensive educational experience.

The ever important emphasis of the student's educational needs must come before profit and should be the ultimate goal. In my experience with ACICS, this all important value aligned well with our institution.

Sincerely,



Linda Madsen
Pharmacy Technician Instructor

To Whom It May Concern:

Laurus College's accreditation through ACICS is of vital importance to our school. Not only does it assure students that the courses they undertake and the curriculum they master is relevant to their field of study but also that the education they receive is accepted in the world beyond the classroom.

As a faculty member at Laurus College for more than a year, and as a recent graduate of Laurus College's Information Technologies and Network Systems program, I've experienced ACICS's accreditation process having positively impacted the Information Technologies and Network Systems program in several key areas, including (a) academic quality, (b) curriculum development, (c) measuring learning objectives, and (d) instructional processes.

Just two of the more pertinent examples of this impact on my department are:

1. **Program Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings.** The ACICS stipulation that our department host regular PAC meetings has a profound and continuing positive impact on the curriculum that this program presents to our students. By requiring our department to solicit input and guidance on our curriculum from committee volunteers who work in the IT field, our faculty is able to regularly interact with IT professionals who provide meaningful observations on our curriculum, meaningful observations on the relevance of the technologies we teach, and useful insights into all emerging technologies. Our department modifies our curriculum in response to the observations collected during these meetings. This process ensures our department provides the most relevant curriculum on the most current technologies because that curriculum is influenced by guidance from IT industry professionals.
 - **Most Recent Illustration:** A PAC member observed that our curriculum did not include Microsoft's most recent Windows Server 2016 operating system and that we were still teaching the aging Windows 2008 R2 operating system. We adjusted our curriculum accordingly to ensure our students are knowledgeable in the most current technologies, thus more employable.

2. **Faculty Development.** The ACICS requirement that our faculty engage in ongoing professional development has a measurable, positive impact on our staff, which waterfalls to our students. Our faculty freely tell our students that we are taking our own IT classes at night; we demonstrate that learning is a lifelong pursuit and that none of our faculty is so good that he/she cannot improve and know just a little bit more. This ongoing development helps our faculty stay up to date on relevant and emerging technologies, and we all integrate our own recent learnings into lectures for our students.
 - **Most Recent Illustration:** Myself and several colleagues are currently enrolled in the same cybersecurity class. We all are learning massive amounts, and we all integrate cybersecurity concepts we learned the night before into the following day's lecture for our students.

The presence and guidance of ACICS has opened the door for greater professional development within Laurus College, which has had a positive impact on both my teaching methodologies and my interactions with students.

It is my sincere hope that Laurus College will have the opportunity to continue working with ACICS in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Randall Lewis

Instructor, Information Technologies and Network Systems

Laurus College

December 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Laurus College's accreditation through ACICS is extremely important to our school. Not only does it assure students that the courses they undertake and the curriculum they master is relevant to their field of study, but also accepted in the world beyond the classroom.

As a faculty member at Laurus College for 5 years, I've experienced ACICS's accreditation process having positively impacted the Medical Billing and Coding program in several areas including academic quality, curriculum development, measuring learning objectives, and instructional processes.

For example:

After reviewing course evaluations for several terms, we discovered a pattern of students feeling that the course content was moving too quickly in our MED150 Understanding Health Insurance course. After discussing with our department staff, we created additional learning materials to help supplement the course. We then presented these materials to our Medical Billing and Coding Program Advisory Committee, and implemented once the materials received final approval from our School Chancellor.

The following several term's course evaluations showed an improvement in student's ratings for the courses learning materials, and fewer comments pertaining to course pacing.

The presence and guidance of ACICS has opened the door for greater professional development within Laurus College, which has had a positive benefit on both my teaching methodologies and student interactions.

It is my sincere hope that Laurus College will have the opportunity to continue working with ACICS in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Sandoval

Director of Medical Billing and Coding Dept.

December 13, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Accreditation is of great importance to our school. Not only does it assure students that the courses they undertake and the curriculum they master is relevant to their field of study, but also accepted in the world beyond the classroom. A good accreditor, such as ACICS, has had a powerful impact on Laurus College by helping us to create a professional learning community and establishing measurable learning objectives.

As a faculty member at Laurus College for 3 years, I'd like to share my thoughts on how ACICS's accreditation process has positively impacted the PBS program.

ACICS is very rigorous and has high standards, which for our department, precipitated deep reflection as we examined our courses, course curriculum, and learning objectives. This systematic process facilitated hearty academic discussion within our department, led to many innovative ideas that helped us create more learner-centric assignments, and assisted our students in engaging more deeply with the learning material.

The presence and guidance of ACICS has opened the door for greater professional development within Laurus College which has had a positive benefit on both my teaching methodologies and student interactions.

It is my sincere hope that Laurus College will have the opportunity to continue working with ACICS in the coming years, and that we will be able to forge ahead with this valuable partner in our commitment to academic excellence.

Sincerely,

Steve Ryan

Professional Business Systems

Faculty

Laurus College

steve.ryan@lauruscollege.edu

Cell Phone: (916) [REDACTED]

421 E. Betteravia Rd, Suite 100

Santa Maria, CA 93454

www.lauruscollege.edu



**SOUTHERN STATES
UNIVERSITY**

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: Letter of Support for Accrediting Council - Independent Colleges and Schools
from University Professor**

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as a faculty member at Southern States University, in Newport Beach, California. This post-secondary school is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). You can find my profile on the list of faculty: <http://www.ssu.edu/academics/faculty/>. Prior to becoming a teacher at the later named school, I worked in educational administration for approximately fifteen (15) years as an Assistant University Dean and later as a Dean of Academics. A respectable amount of my work dealt with, at times, accrediting agencies on a state, regional/ federal level, and their respective guidelines, mandates or requirements.

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at Southern States University and, in my opinion, are consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by recognized accrediting agencies including, but not limited to: (i) The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (ii), Western Association of Schools and Colleges, (iii) Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and (iv) Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. Nothing is open to any degree of misinterpretation or ambiguity. If any changes are made to the criteria, it is my understanding that ACICS timely informs the school(s), providing relevant details and the controlling rationale for the modification(s). Administrators know who to contact at ACICS to get thorough and expedient answers to any and all questions.

As a teacher at Southern States University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016. The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an unconditional expression, without any reservation(s) whatsoever, as to support for the agency. Towards that end, hopefully this correspondence will receive due consideration.

Sincerely,

Duane Carter MA/JD

[Redacted Signature]

(E-Mail Address)

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SOUTHERN STATES
UNIVERSITY

December 11, 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: Letter of Support from Institutional Educator

Dear Mr. Bounds:

I am an educator who works as a faculty member at Southern States University, which is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). I teach courses in mathematics, statistics, and marketing. You can find my profile on the list of faculty:

<http://www.ssu.edu/academics/faculty/>

This letter is to communicate my view as an educator that ACICS accreditation standards, policies, procedures and decisions are widely supported at this institution and consistent with the minimum standards required of other national and regional accrediting agencies. This view is based on my experience working with other institutions of higher education accredited by other recognized accrediting agencies including Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. ACICS criteria is clearly stated, allowing school administrators to know exactly how to set policies to assure a quality education for students. If any changes are made to the criteria, ACICS informs the schools, providing details and rationale for the changes. Administrators know who to call at ACICS to get quick answers to their questions.

As an educator at Southern States University, I strongly support the efforts that the agency has taken to clarify and strengthen its standards, as well as its current effort to seek recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency, consistent with its status prior to 2016.

The federal regulations applicable to agency recognition provide that ACICS must demonstrate wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures and decisions, including by educators such as myself who work at ACICS accredited institutions. Please consider this letter an expression of support for the agency.

Sincerely,

Matthew Alcalá, M.A.
Adjunct Faculty, SSU



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