



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
703.247.4212  
703.247.4533 fax  
[www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org)

## ACCSC ACCREDITATION ALERT

**To:** ACCSC Accredited Institutions and Other Interested Parties  
**From:** Michale S. McComis, Ed.D., Executive Director  
**Date:** June 30, 2017  
**Subject:** Announcements and Revisions to the ACCSC *Standards of Accreditation*

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### **Announcements/Reminders:**

- Call for ACCSC Commissioners
- Reminder – Call for Nominating Committee Nominations
- *SkillsUSA* Scholarship Award Winner

### **Revisions to the *Standards of Accreditation*:**

The Commission has republished the *Standards of Accreditation* which is now dated July 1, 2017 and replaces the July 1, 2016 version. The July 1, 2017 *Standards of Accreditation* are available for download at <http://www.accsc.org/Accreditation/Standards-of-Accreditation.aspx>

#### **Part I – Revisions from the February 24, 2017 *Call for Comment***

#### **Part II – Clarifications and Revisions to the *Rules of Process and Procedure***

#### **Part III – Revisions to ACCSC *Bylaws***

All revisions are effective July 1, 2017 unless otherwise stated in this Alert. For additional information related to this *Accreditation Alert*, please contact Michale S. McComis, Ed.D., Executive Director, at 703.247.4520 or [mccomis@accsc.org](mailto:mccomis@accsc.org).

### **Call for Nominations to Serve as an ACCSC Commissioner**

On behalf of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and in accordance with the organization's *Bylaws*, the ACCSC Nominating Committee seeks nominations of potential candidates for election to serve on the ACCSC Board of Directors as a Commissioner.

During this nomination cycle, the ACCSC Nominating Committee is charged with filling three (3) vacancies on the Commission to serve the following terms:

- One (1) elected School Commissioner to serve a four-year term to begin July 1, 2018 and to end June 30, 2022;
- One (1) appointed School Commissioner to serve a four-year term to begin July 1, 2018 and to end June 30, 2022;
- One (1) appointed Public Commissioner to serve a four-year term to begin July 1, 2018 and to end June 30, 2022.

Nominees should submit the [Call for Nominations](#) accompanied by a current resume **on or before October 20, 2017.**

### **Reminder – Call for Nominating Committee Nominations**

On behalf of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and in accordance with the organization's *Bylaws*, ACCSC seeks the nomination of individuals from its membership of accredited institutions to stand for election to the Nominating Committee. The Commission is currently seeking to fill one open seat on the Nominating Committee for a two-year term ending June 30, 2019.

The ACCSC Nominating Committee plays an important role in vetting and recommending candidates for appointment and election to serve as an ACCSC Commissioner. Nominating Committee members must have a working knowledge of the ACCSC accreditation standards and process and a sense of the kind of traits and experiences that nominees must possess in order to fulfill the role of Commissioner/Board member and to best serve the needs of ACCSC and its accredited institutions.

Individuals interested in standing for election to the ACCSC Nominating Committee should complete the [Call for Nomination Form](#) and return it to the Commission office no later than **July 7, 2017.**

### **SkillsUSA Scholarship Award Winner**

ACCSC is pleased to announce the recipient of its annual *SkillsUSA* Scholarship created to help the student to attend the [SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference \(NLSC\)](#). To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be a student of an ACCSC-accredited school; be a Gold Medal Winner at their 2017 state competition, advancing to national competition; and be a *SkillsUSA* member in good standing. ACCSC awarded the 2017 *SkillsUSA* Scholarship to **Josia Williams** who is enrolled in the Collision Repair Program at **Lincoln College of Technology** in Indianapolis, Indiana after serving in the military for the last eight years.

Josia participates in the Collision contest area for the *SkillsUSA* chapter at Lincoln College of Technology. His instructors describe him as a pleasure to have in the classroom, displaying maturity and strong desire to improve on his skills, and that his classmates all have amazing respect and appreciation of him. The Commission was impressed by his commitment to excellence, his passion for the field of collision and teaching others, and his value of professionalism. "I am in this field to give opportunity to others," Josia

said. “One day I will be managing a shop and *SkillsUSA* opened that door for me.” After the military, “...*SkillsUSA* gave [him] another purpose and goal...[he] knew this would be a perfect opportunity to create a foundation for [his] future.” Upon receiving the award Josia stated:

*I would like to thank the entire committee for choosing me. I have been missing a purpose ever since I left the military, but this makes me feel accomplished again. You have no idea how this makes me feel.*

The scholarship is awarded based on the student’s commitment to excellence in technical skills, work ethic, and leadership as well as how the student will use the opportunity to compete at the *SkillsUSA* National Leadership and Skills Conference to be an ambassador for the skilled trades and workforce development. Josia embodies all of these qualities at a high level and the Commission is very proud of Josia and knows that he will use his *SkillsUSA* experiences to achieve even greater success when he finishes school.

If your institution does not currently participate in *SkillsUSA*, the Commission strongly encourages institutions to explore the possibilities and benefits of membership. Here is what one ACCSC school faculty member has said about *SkillsUSA*:

*SkillsUSA created opportunities for my students that went beyond the academic scope. It is the only national organization designed exclusively for students preparing for technical, skilled, health, and service careers. By offering opportunities for leadership, competitive events, and awards from the local to international levels, this organization will unite your school in a common bond and create an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to develop technical, academic, and employability skills geared toward the workforce.*

- Paul Amigh - *SkillsUSA* Advisor & Lead Faculty, YTI Career Institute - Altoona

### **About SkillsUSA**



*SkillsUSA* is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure that America has a skilled workforce to help each student to excel. *SkillsUSA* is a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled, and service occupations in a wide array of fields from healthcare occupations to welding. Timothy W. Lawrence, Executive Director of *SkillsUSA* gave the Keynote Address at ACCSC’s 2015 Professional Development Conference and made a compelling case that every institution that offers vocational programs can benefit from working with *SkillsUSA*. *SkillsUSA*, along with advocates such as ACCSC’s 2014 Key Note Speaker Mike Rowe and hundreds of employers from small businesses and major corporations, is taking employability skills training and development to new levels.

For information on getting started with *SkillsUSA*, go to [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org) or call 844.875.4557.

## **Revisions to the Standards of Accreditation**

The Commission has republished the [Standards of Accreditation](#) which is now dated July 1, 2017 and replaces the July 1, 2016 version.

### **Part I – Revisions from the February 24, 2017 Call for Comment:**

The Commission has promulgated the revisions as proposed in the February 24, 2017 *Call for Comment* in the following section:

#### **Substantive Standards**

- ***Section VII (A)(3)(c) – Leave of Absence***

### **Part II – Other Clarifications and Revisions to the Rules of Process and Procedure:**

In addition to the revisions described above, the Commission has also revised other sections of the *Rules of Process and Procedure* in order to set forth process, provide clarity, and to align with federal requirements.

- ***Section IV (E)(5)(b)(vi) – Satellite Location***: Includes a provision that ACCSC’s approval of a satellite location expires if the satellite location does not become operational within 12 months after the date of Commission approval of the Application for a Satellite.
- ***Section IV(E)(5)(c)(iii) – Distance Education Facility***: Includes a provision that ACCSC’s approval of a distance education facility expires if the distance education facility is not operational within 12 months after the date of Commission approval of the Application for a Distance Education Facility.
- ***Section V (E)(2)(a) – Notification Requirements***: The Commission has clarified that ACCSC requires notice of any filings for bankruptcy, reorganization, receivership, or similar.
- ***Section VII (P)(3) – Withdrawal of Accreditation***: The Commission has added language to remind schools under this section (as stated in *Section IV (F)*) that the Commission requires an institutional teach-out plan.
- ***Section VII (O) – Voluntary Withdrawal or Closure***: The Commission has clarified the requirements regarding voluntary withdrawals and closures and added a reminder of the required teach-out plan.
- ***Section X (B & C) – Notification of Commission Actions to Government Entities and Other Accrediting Agencies Disclosure of Commission Actions to the Public***: The Commission has revised these sections in order to provide additional information regarding Warning Orders on the Commission’s website in alignment with the U.S. Department of Education reporting requirements.

### **Part III – Revisions to ACCSC Bylaws:**

The July 1, 2017 Bylaws revisions are now in effect. See the [October 3, 2016 Accreditation Alert](#) for the specific revisions to the Bylaws.