October 18, 2019

President
The International Culinary Center
462 Broadway
New York, New York 10013

Dear [Name],

At the September 2019 meeting, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) considered the decision of the ACCSC independent Appeal Panel to remand for further consideration, the Commission’s March 18, 2019 action to withdraw the accreditation of The International Culinary Center (“ICC”) located in New York, New York. Upon review of the July 25, 2019 Appeal Panel decision letter and the school’s response, the Commission voted to vacate the March 18, 2019 withdrawal of accreditation action and determined that good cause exists to extend the maximum timeframe for the school to demonstrate compliance through to ACCSC’s February 2020 meeting. The Commission action re-instates ICC’s accreditation and Probation status. The reasons for the Commission’s decision are set forth below.

In response to the July 25, 2019 Appeal Panel decision letter, ICC provided the following:

- The financial information included in the school’s Grounds for Appeal;
- The financial information provided to the Appeals Panel at the time of the hearing; and
- Updated financial information since the Appeals Panel hearing.

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1 The International Culinary Center was originally placed on Probation at the May 2017 meeting. The history of the accreditation status for The International Culinary Center is found in the March 18, 2019 and July 25, 2019 ACCSC letters.
Based on the foregoing, the Commission directs ICC to submit a complete Application for Change of Control-Part I, to include all documentation that the prospective buyer has sufficient financial resources to infuse cash into the school and maintain sufficient resources to support the educational programs. Should ICC fail to submit an acceptable application for change of control by the February 2020 meeting, the Commission will re-instate the withdrawal of accreditation action.

PROBATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

In cases where the Commission has reason to believe that a school is not in compliance with accreditation standards and other requirements, the Commission may, at its discretion, place a school on Probation. A school subject to a Probation Order must demonstrate corrective action and compliance with accrediting standards. Failure of the school to demonstrate compliance with accrediting standards or other accrediting requirements by the due date set forth herein will result in the withdrawal of the school’s accreditation.

The Commission will not consider substantive changes, a change of location/relocation, or additions (i.e., separate facilities, new programs) to a school or its separate facilities while the school is on Probation. However, a school that is subject to Probation may seek the Commission’s approval for the transfer of accreditation that would result from a change of ownership as described in Section IV, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation.

In accordance with Section X, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation, a summary of the Probation Order is made public and provided to the U.S. Department of Education, appropriate State agencies, and appropriate accrediting agencies. Moreover, in accordance with Section X (C)(6), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation, the Commission has notified the U.S. Department of Education of this action pertaining to the findings related to the school’s federal financial aid responsibilities.

In accordance with Section VII (L)(7), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation, a school subject to a Probation Order must inform current and prospective students that the school has been placed on Probation and that additional information regarding that action can be obtained from the Commission’s website at http://www.accsc.org/Commission-Actions/Accredited-Schools-on-Probation.aspx.

TEACH-OUT PLAN REQUIREMENT:

Given the nature of the issues outlined herein, the Commission directs the school to provide an updated ACCSC Institutional Teach-Out Plan Approval Form which must be submitted in conjunction with the Application for a Change of Control-Part I.

NOTIFICATION TO STUDENTS:

The school must inform current and prospective students in writing that the school has been placed on Probation and that additional information regarding that action can be obtained from the Commission’s website (Section VII (L)(7) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation).

RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS:

By applying for accreditation, a school accepts the obligation to demonstrate continuous compliance with the Standards of Accreditation. While the Commission employs its own methods to determine a school’s compliance with accrediting standards, the burden rests with the school to establish that it is meeting the standards. The Commission’s deliberations and decisions are made on the basis of the written record and
thus a school must supply the Commission with complete documentation of the school’s compliance with accrediting standards.\(^2\)

ICC must provide a response to the items expressed above that provides the information requested along with any additional information that the school believes supports a demonstration of compliance with accrediting standards. If the school’s response contains documentation that includes personal or confidential student or staff information that is not required for the Commission’s review (e.g., social security numbers, dates of birth, etc.), please remove or redact that information.

ICC must upload the school’s electronic response directly to ACCSC’s College 360 Database. The ACCSC College 360 database can be accessed by clicking here. Please note that the password utilized by the institution to access the Annual Report Portal is the same to access the School Submission section of the College 360 database. The Instructions for College 360 DMS Submissions can be found here. A detailed overview on how to upload a school submission can be found here.

Keep in mind, the school’s response must be prepared in accordance with ACCSC’s Instructions for Electronic Submission (e.g., prepared as one Portable Document Format (“PDF”) file that has been prepared using Adobe Acrobat software (version 8.0 or higher) and which has a .pdf extension as part of the file name). The school will receive an e-mail confirmation that the file has been received within 24 hours of the submission.

The school’s response must also include a signed certification attesting to the accuracy of the information and be received in the Commission’s office on or before January 10, 2020. If a response and the certificate of attesting to the accuracy of the information is not received in the Commission’s office on or before January 10, 2020, the Commission will consider further appropriate action.

For assistance with the password or for any other questions regarding the electronic submission requirements, please contact [email protected]. Please note that any password requests to access College 360 must be made by the school director or designated member of the school’s management team via e-mail.

For further assistance or additional information, please contact [email protected]

Sincerely,

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

\(^2\) ACCSC has issued two modules of the Blueprints for Success Series – Organizing an Effective Electronic Submission and Preparing a Comprehensive Response for Commission Consideration – which provide a framework for submitting a well-documented, organized, electronic response for Commission consideration. ACCSC encourages the school to review these modules when formulating its response to this letter. More information is available in the Resources section at www.accsc.org.