

February 21, 2019

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

As noted in the January 18, 2019 letter from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) to the system of Vatterott Colleges (“Vatterott”),<sup>1</sup> on December 17, 2018 Vatterott precipitously closed all campuses. At the time of closure there was no advance notification from Vatterott or approved teach-out plan on file with the Commission.

As stated under *Section VII (P)(5) & Section VII (Q)(4) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, “[a] school will be considered to have had its accreditation withdrawn if the school closes without notification or closes without an ACCSC approved teach-out plan (to include as necessary an ACCSC approved teach-out agreement) that the school faithfully executes.” Because Vatterott made the decision to precipitously close without faithfully executing any the teach-out plan, ACCSC considers the system of Vatterott Colleges’ accreditation withdrawn effective December 17, 2018.

In accordance with *Section X, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, the reasons for the Withdrawal are made public and provided to the U.S. Department of Education (“the Department”), appropriate state agencies, and appropriate accrediting agencies. Moreover, any owner or school manager shall be responsible for disclosing his or her affiliation with a school that had its accreditation withdrawn in any future application for accreditation or application to participate in any federal or state student financial aid program as may be requested or required.

Moreover, the January 18, 2019 letter from ACCSC requested information regarding the decision to close the schools precipitously. At the February 2019 meeting the Commission reviewed Vatterott’s February 1, 2019 response which states that: “Vatterott’s closure was not the product of any failures or lack of effort on part of the receiver, Vatterott, Debtors, and none of Receiver, Vatterott, or Debtors are culpable for this disappointing result.” The Commission found, however, that the response does not include the documentation requested. The response also appears to lay the blame for the precipitous closure squarely upon the Department, effectively ignoring the events and circumstances caused by Vatterott that led up to the Department’s actions. Regardless of Vatterott’s position with respect to culpability for the precipitous closure, all owners and management-level employees affiliated with Vatterott at the time of the precipitous closure must disclose to ACCSC their affiliation with any other ACCSC-accredited institution within thirty (30) days of this letter. In addition, such individuals (to include also the court-appointed receiver) must also hereafter disclose their affiliation with a school which has had its accreditation withdrawn as may be required by ACCSC applications and reports (e.g., applications for accreditation, change of control applications, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A. At the time of the closure, Vatterott was operating under a continued system-wide Probation order as part of its accreditation with ACCSC. [http://www.accsc.org/UploadedDocuments/2018/Probation-Letters/Vatterott-SAL-05-2018-SW-FRC\\_Redacted-10.pdf](http://www.accsc.org/UploadedDocuments/2018/Probation-Letters/Vatterott-SAL-05-2018-SW-FRC_Redacted-10.pdf)

**TEACH-OUT PLAN**

Pursuant to federal law, an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education must require a teach-out plan from an institution subject to an adverse accreditation decision to withdraw accreditation. Although the school is closed, in the Commission's estimation the school's responsibility to ensure the completion of each student's training program has not ceased. Therefore, in accordance with *Section IV (F)(1)(c) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* the Commission requires that Vatterott submit an updated completed ACCSC Institutional Teach-Out Plan Approval Form,<sup>2</sup> **on or before February 28, 2019.**

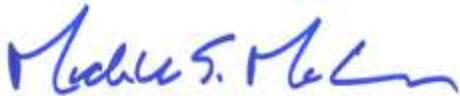
**APPEAL AND REAPPLICATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURE**

Vatterott may opt to appeal the Commission's decision to withdraw accreditation. Details regarding the appeal procedures are outlined in the *ACCSC Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*.

- If the school elects to appeal this withdrawal, the school must sign and return the enclosed Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision, along with the Appeal Expense Fee of \$6,000.00, **on or before March 4, 2019.**
- If the school elects to appeal this withdrawal, the school's Application for Appeal of a Commission Decision and Grounds for Appeal must be submitted **on or before March 25, 2019.**
- If the school elects not to appeal this withdrawal, the Commission's decision to withdraw the school's accreditation as of **December 17, 2019** will become final. The school may submit comments **on or before March 4, 2019** in accordance with the enclosed Public Comment Disclosure Form. Comments submitted by a school will accompany any public disclosure of a final Commission action pursuant to *Section X (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

For additional information regarding the Commission's decision, please contact me directly at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

Encl.: Appendix A: ACCSC-Accredited Institutions Owned and Operated by Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc.

c: Illinois Board of Higher Education

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Missouri Department of Higher Education

[REDACTED]

Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools

[REDACTED]

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

[REDACTED]

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

[REDACTED]

U.S. Department of Education

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

<sup>2</sup> Available online at: <http://www.accsc.org/Content/FormsAndReports/FormsAndReports.asp>

## Appendix A

### ACCSC-Accredited Institutions Owned and Operated by Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc.<sup>3</sup>

**February 21, 2019**

Vatterott College  
St. Charles, Missouri  
#M070782

Vatterott College  
Joplin, Missouri  
#B065984

Vatterott College  
Kansas City, Missouri  
#B065985

Vatterott College  
Springfield, Missouri  
#B065986

Vatterott College  
Sunset Hills, Missouri  
#B070155

Vatterott College  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
#B070253

Vatterott College  
Fairview Heights, Illinois  
#B072153

Vatterott Career College  
Memphis, Tennessee  
#B072164

Vatterott Career College  
Memphis, Tennessee  
#B070327

L'Ecole Culinaire  
Kansas City, Missouri  
#B072415

L'Ecole Culinaire  
St. Louis, Missouri  
#B070762

L'Ecole Culinaire  
Cordova, Tennessee  
#B072187

Vatterott College Extreme  
Institute  
St. Louis, Missouri  
#S460453

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<sup>3</sup> In a letter dated December 5, 2018, ACCSC informed Vatterott that the Commission voted to revoke the accreditation of Vatterott College located in Berkeley, Missouri (#M0001095) and removed the school from the ACCSC list of accredited institutions.