



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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**A Message to ACCSC-Accredited Schools
Regarding ACCSC's Continued Recognition by the U.S. Department of Education
November 3, 2021**

Last week, the Senior Department Official (“SDO”) at the U.S. Department of Education (“the Department”) informed ACCSC that he is postponing making a recognition decision on ACCSC’s Petition for Re-Recognition by the Secretary of Education. The SDO has sought additional information from ACCSC due on January 10, 2022.

ACCSC is disappointed with this delay, particularly as there has been no finding of noncompliance with the criteria or federal regulations through the rigorous and thorough re-recognition process by either Department staff or the National Advisory Committee of Institutional Quality and Integrity (“NACIQI”). In fact, upon completion of its thorough review, the Department staff had recommended a full five-year grant of re-recognition with no monitoring. Regardless, ACCSC stands ready to timely respond to the SDO’s request and remains steadfast in its commitment to demonstrating its compliance and value to its membership and the students you serve.

ACCSC understands that schools may have questions about the Department’s review process, what happens next, and ACCSC’s plan going forward. Firstly, the Commission is confident in its policies and practices and will reaffirm for the Department its full compliance with the regulations that govern its continued recognition. During this time, ACCSC remains a recognized agency as noted in the SDO’s letter and ACCSC’s operations and requirements under the *Standards of Accreditation* will continue in the regular course (e.g., on-site evaluations, application review, reports, etc.). Secondly, the Commission requests schools to be patient and to allow the Department’s full process to be completed – as the SDO’s letter indicates, the process is still ongoing and no decision with respect to ACCSC’s period of recognition has been made yet.

ACCSC is committed to its role as an accreditor that ensures a fair yet rigorous assessment of a school’s success in adhering to best practice standards and in offering quality education that enhances student success in the workforce. ACCSC has worked for decades to build its reputation as an accreditor of action that is committed to quality and accountability as well as fairness, due process, and transparency. ACCSC’s accreditation process and its *Standards of Accreditation* have been affirmed and re-recognized since 1967

as a reliable authority on quality education. ACCSC will continue to enforce those standards and make the necessary decisions and actions that serve students and the greater good.

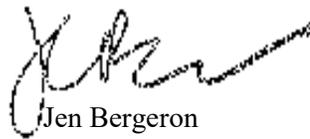
Knowing firsthand and experiencing ACCSC's rigorous requirements and accreditation process, ACCSC will continue to educate and advocate about the rigor of our work, the high standards we set, and the processes we follow – all of which make schools and opportunities for students better. As we recently saw at our 2021 Professional Development Conference, ACCSC-accredited schools do so much good educating students and fulfilling the workforce and career needs of their communities and your successes should be celebrated. Seize on the opportunities to do so with your students, alumni, faculty, and community.

Be assured that for ACCSC, mission matters most and our focus on quality education and student success has not changed. ACCSC will continue to work diligently to meet that mission and to demonstrate clearly to the Department of Education why ACCSC is a leader in the accreditation community and deserving of a full 5-year term of recognition.

Sincerely,



Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Jen Bergeron
Chair of the Commission