PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) is a national institutional accreditor. Its current scope of recognition is for the accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidacy status”) throughout the United States of postsecondary occupational education institutions offering non-degree and applied associate degree programs in specific career and technical education fields, including institutions that offer programs via distance education.

COE was originally established in 1968 as a committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In 1971 the Committee became the Commission on Occupational Education Institutions. In 1995, the agency formally separated from SACS, adopted its present name, and began to accredit and preaccredit institutions throughout the United States.

COE currently accredits 534 institutions and 57 candidate institutions in 39 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. COE’s accreditation enables the institutions it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs; thus it must meet the Secretary’s separate and independent requirements.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary’s Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third-party comments regarding this agency.