



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

December 10, 2018

Honorable Wycliffe Smith
Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Road 1, Pond Island
Great Bay
Sint Maarten

Dear Mr. Smith:

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met on September 26-27, 2018. One of the agenda items was to evaluate the documents submitted by the Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM) on behalf of the Government of Sint Maarten regarding the country's medical education accreditation activities.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to determine the comparability of the country's medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the system used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that NCFMEA finds comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' participation in the Direct Loan program, access the Foreign School Information Web page at <https://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA reviewed the information submitted regarding the ACCM's accreditation activities on behalf of the Government of Sint Maarten for a redetermination of comparability. The NCFMEA wishes to thank Dr. Anthony Peacock and Ms. Caroline Burrell for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding ACCM's activities. Their testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

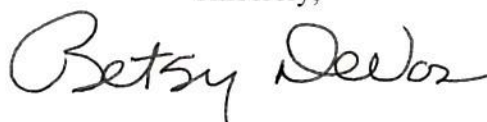
The NCFMEA determined that the standards and processes used by ACCM to accredit medical schools in Sint Maarten are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the United States. The NCFMEA further required a special report from the country in two years regarding the Commission's system for collection, review, and analysis of completion rates for U.S. graduates, and documentation that it reviews schools to ensure that students can access their records.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact Sint Maarten and ACCM before the fall 2020 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the material. If you have any

questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at jennifer.hong@ed.gov.

Thank you for providing the information regarding the country's accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high-quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy DeVos

cc: Dr. Anthony Peacock, ACCM
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Sint Maarten Desk
Officer