



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 10, 2019

Honorable Romel Springer  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training  
The Elsie Payne Complex  
Constitution Road, St. Michael  
Barbados, West Indies

Dear Mr. Springer:

On April 16, 2019, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) on behalf of the Government of Barbados regarding the country's medical education accreditation activities.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to monitor the continuing 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, visit the Foreign School Information web page at: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA reviewed and accepted the update report submitted by CAAM-HP and requested a special report for the fall 2019 meeting to include the following:

1. Attrition, completion, and residency placement data - by admissions cohort, and in years four, five, and six of the medical program - for Ross University, School of Medicine;
2. Pass rate data for the National Board of Medical Examiners "shelf" exam, by admissions cohort;
3. First-time United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) pass rate data for those students eligible to sit for the USMLE exam; and
4. CAAM-HP's plan to increase its administrative capacity to accredit medical schools in Barbados, particularly those medical schools with extensive numbers of clinical sites and high enrollment.

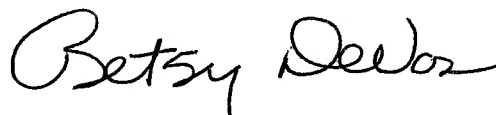
The NCFMEA wishes to thank you, along with Ms. Violet Barriteau, University of the West Indies, and Mrs. Lorna Parkins, CAAM-HP, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Barbados and CAAM-HP's accreditation activities. Your testimony was insightful, and the Committee valued your participation in the meeting.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact CAAM-HP and the Government of Barbados prior to the fall 2019 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the report.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at [jennifer.hong@ed.gov](mailto: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: Mrs. Lorna Parkins, CAAM-HP  
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Barbados Desk  
Officer