



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

October 28, 2016

Michael McComis, Executive Director
Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges
2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302
Arlington, VA 22201
mccomis@accsc.org

Dear Mr. McComis,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of the recognition of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). Department of Education staff and the National Advisory Council on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) have each made recommendations to me. These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

In its final report, Department staff recommended that I continue the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time, and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months with 34 C.F.R. § 602.15(a)(5), and then submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency's compliance.

NACIQI recommended that I renew ACCSC's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time for a period of five years, after concluding that the issue identified by Department staff had been remedied in the time between the final staff report being issued and the NACIQI hearing on August 23, 2016. At that hearing, Department staff stated that its recommendation would have been different if the final staff report were prepared after the agency had taken this remedial action, instead of before.

As required, I considered the full record and the transcript of the agency appearance before NACIQI on August 23, 2016.

Under the applicable law and regulations, and the record before me, I am satisfied that accreditation by ACCSC is a required element in enabling the institutions the agency accredits to establish eligibility to participate in programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education under the HEA, and I concur with the recommendation of NACIQI. Accordingly, I renew the

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Department's recognition of ACCSC as a nationally recognized accrediting agency with the scope of recognition as detailed below for five years from the date of this letter.

Scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary, non-degree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions in the United States, including those granting associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and technical careers, and including institutions that offer programs via distance education.

We appreciate the work of ACCSC to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Vadehra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emma Vadehra
Chief of Staff