



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

October 28, 2016

Gary Puckett, Executive Director  
Council on Occupational Education  
7840 Roswell Rd, Building 300, Suite 325  
Atlanta, GA 30350  
[puckettg@council.org](mailto:puckettg@council.org)

Dear Mr. Puckett,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of the recognition of the Council on Occupational Education (COE). 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.

Both the staff and NACIQI recommended that I continue COE's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time for a period of five years.

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 COE 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 recommendations of Department staff and NACIQI. Accordingly, I renew the Department's recognition of COE as a nationally recognized accrediting agency with the scope of recognition as detailed below for five years from the date of this letter.

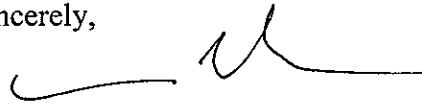
**Scope of recognition:** The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy status") throughout the United States of postsecondary occupational education institutions offering non-degree and applied associate degree programs in specific career and technical education fields, including institutions that offer programs via distance education.

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

We appreciate the work of COE 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