



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

September 20, 2017

Dr. Leah K. Matthews  
Executive Director  
Distance Education Accrediting Commission  
1101 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 808  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Matthews,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of recognition of the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff and the National Advisory Committee 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, as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

Both the Department staff and the NACIQI recommended that I grant DEAC renewed recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for a period of five years. I concur with the recommendations of the Department staff and of the NACIQI. Accordingly, I grant renewed recognition to DEAC for a period of five years.

Scope of Recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree and/or non-degree programs primarily by the distance or correspondence education method up to and including the professional doctoral degree, including those institutions that are specifically certified by the agency as accredited for Title IV purposes.

Please convey my best wishes to the members of DEAC. We appreciate the work that DEAC does to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Holly L. Ham".

Holly L. Ham  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Management

400 MARYLAND AVE., S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

