



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

September 22, 2016

Rafael Román-Meléndez, Secretary of Education
Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical
Institutions and Programs
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Department of Education
romanmr@de.gobierno.pr

Dear Secretary Román-Meléndez,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of the recognition of the Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs (the Puerto Rico State Agency). 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 accept the compliance report and continue the Department's recognition of the Puerto Rico State Agency as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for one year.

As required, I considered the full record, which included the agency's compliance report (as set forth in the Final Staff analysis) and the transcript of the NACIQI hearing on June 22, 2016.

Under the applicable law and regulations, and the record before me, I am satisfied that accreditation by the Puerto Rico State Agency 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 the Puerto Rico State Agency as a nationally recognized accrediting agency with the scope of recognition as detailed below for one year from the date of this letter.

Scope of recognition: State agency for the approval of public postsecondary vocational education.

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We appreciate the work of the Puerto Rico State Agency 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