



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

August 22, 2018

Julia B Keleher, Secretary of Education  
Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval  
of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
Post Office Box 190759  
San Juan, PR 00919-0759

Dear Dr. Keleher:

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of recognition of the the Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs (SAAPPVT). 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.

The NACIQI and Staff made similar recommendations, specifically that I defer the agency's recognition for one year in light of the continuing impact of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico, including on SAAPPVT. However, staff recommended additional deferrals for such additional six month increments as the agency continues to demonstrate to the Staff that due to the continuing impact of Hurricane Maria it remains unable to submit complete documentation which has been translated into English. The NACIQI recommended a single six month extension at the discretion of staff.

In light of the extenuating circumstances resulting from the severe impact of Hurricane Maria, my decision is to agree with the Staff recommendation to grant SAAPPVT a deferral for one year and additional deferrals in six month increments as the agency continues to demonstrate to the Staff that due to the continuing impact of Hurricane Maria it remains unable to submit complete documentation which has been translated into English.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Auer Jones".

Diane Auer Jones  
Principal Deputy Under Secretary  
Delegated to Perform the Duties of Under Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education

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