



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

May 25, 2017

Dr. Richard A. Winn
Interim President
Western Association of Schools and Colleges,
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204
Novato, California 94949

Dear Dr. Winn,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of recognition of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). 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 ACCJC's renewed recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for a period of one and a half years, and that I remove the limitation on scope associated with baccalaureate degrees imposed by the April 5, 2016 decision letter. I concur with the recommendations of the Department staff and of the NACIQI.

Accordingly, I grant renewed recognition to ACCJC for a period of one and a half years. I also remove the restriction of scope associated with "the first baccalaureate degree by means of a substantive change review offered by institutions that are already accredited by the agency" that limited recognized accreditation to those baccalaureate programs ACCJC had accredited prior to the April 5, 2016 decision.

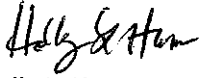
Scope of Recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and other colleges with a primarily pre-baccalaureate mission located in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which offer certificates, associate degrees, and the first baccalaureate degree by means of a substantive change review offered by institutions that are already accredited by the agency, and such programs offered via distance education and correspondence education at these colleges. This recognition also extends to the Committee on Substantive Change of the Commission, for decisions on substantive changes, and the Appeals Panel.

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

I trust that ACCJC will work to remain in full compliance given recent efforts by the agency to resolve prior findings. Please convey my best wishes to the members of ACCJC. We appreciate the work that ACCJC does to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holly L. Ham".

Holly L. Ham
Assistant Secretary
Office of Management