Subject: Student Achievement - Withdrawal of Institutional Accreditation by Suspension

Dear Dr. Fell:

At its February 2018 meeting, the Council reviewed the institution’s updated/revised 2017 Campus Accountability Report (CAR) and found the following based on the Accountability Criteria:

- The institution remains significantly out of compliance with Council standards for placement rates and has little or no chance of coming into compliance. After being found out of compliance following its 2016 submission of 53%, and placed on compliance warning to provide the institution the opportunity to come into compliance within one year, the institution’s performance continued to deteriorate in 2017, reporting a rate of 17% (Section 2-1-809 & Appendix L).

Council Action

The Council regards student achievement outcomes with the utmost importance; and due to the significant nature by which the campus remains out of compliance with that standard, the Council acted to withdraw the institution’s accreditation by suspension.

The institution has the right to appeal this decision to the Review Board of Appeals. The Council must be notified, in writing, within ten (10) business days of receipt of this notice if the institution desires to appeal this decision to the Review Board. The appeal notification must include payment in the amount of $10,000. If the appeal notice and appropriate fee are not provided within the prescribed time, then the Council’s decision is final. If the institution elects to appeal this action to the Review Board and remits the appropriate fee by the established deadline, then the campus will maintain its approval within the accredited status of the institution through the length of the appeal, and more detailed appeal procedures and information will be forwarded to the institution.
If the institution elects not to appeal this action, any comments you may wish to make with regard to this decision must be submitted to the Council office within two weeks of the date of this letter. Should you choose to submit any comments, these comments will be included in the summary detailing the reasons for the Council’s decision that will be made available to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, and the public through www.acics.org.

Institutional Teach-Out Plan

Finally, if the institution exercises its appeal rights, in compliance with Section 2-2-303 of the Accreditation Criteria, the institution is directed to provide the Council with an Institutional Teach-Out Plan, utilizing the online Institutional Teach-Out Plan application in the ACICS Member Center by March 26, 2018.

The Council expects that the institution will take the appropriate steps to assist the students at that campus through any transition to successfully complete their programs in an orderly manner. You are advised that Section 2-3-900 of the ACICS Accreditation Criteria stipulates that the Council may bar any person or entity from being an owner or senior manager of an ACICS-accredited institution if that person or entity was an owner or manager of an institution that loses its accreditation as a result of a denial or suspension action or that closes without providing a teach-out or refunds to students matriculating at that time of closure.

Please contact Ms. Perliter Walters-Gilliam at pwgilliam@acics.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Edwards
President and CEO

c: Ms. Cathy Sheffield, Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education
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Ms. Betty Coughlin, U.S. Department of Education, Boston/New York School Participation Team, Regions I & II (betty.coughlin@ed.gov)
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