

August 16, 2019

VIA EMAIL (vscenter@aol.com)

Ms. Sara Cristi, Chief Executive Officer A-Technical College 6330 Pacific Boulevard, Suite 200 Huntington Park, CA 90255

> Re: Interim Report Reviewed; Follow Up Visit Report Response Reviewed; Teach Out Plan Reviewed; Institutional Show Cause Continued; Reaccreditation Deferred; Staff Report Required

> > ACCET ID #887

Dear Ms. Cristi,

At its August 2019 meeting, the Accrediting Commission of the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET) reviewed the institution's interim report submitted in response to the April 29, 2019 Commission Action letter, as a result of the deferral of accreditation at the December 2018 meeting (visit conducted on October 3-4, 2018). The Commission's April 2019 action extended the institution's accredited status, issued a show cause directive, requiring the institution to provide a compelling rationale as to why its accredited status should not be withdrawn due to serious concerns regarding the financial implications of the U.S. Department of Education's program review conducted the week of August 13, 2018 and the unannounced follow-up visit to the institution on January 23, 2019 relative to the institution's enrollment of approximately 200 students with high school credentials from Parkridge Private School (Parkridge) in the 2016 - 2019 award years. The Commission further directed the institution to submit an additional interim report to include a narrative update relative to the program review conducted by the U.S. Department of Education and the unannounced follow-up visit to the institution to include: (1) all correspondence and reporting between the institution and the U.S. Department of Education relative to the program review and follow-up activities; (2) documentation to demonstrate the relationship between A-Technical College and Parkridge Private School such as any contract, agreement(s), memorandum of understanding, and/or other arrangement(s); and (3) revised admissions policies and procedures to ensure the validity of high school credentials of prospective students, along with documented evidence of the systematic and effective implementation of these policies/procedures.

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Additionally, as a result of communication with the US Department of Education and the institution's Heightened Cash Monitoring (HCM2) status, the Executive Committee of the Accreditation Commission directed a Follow-up Visit be conducted in the August 2019 accreditation cycle to review issues relative to the show cause directive. On the morning of the first day of the visit on July 15, 2019, the institution informed the team of the owners' decision to teach-out current students and cease operations. A written notice was sent to ACCET on July 15, 2019 stating: "*Please consider this email as notification of A-Technical College's intention to close. We are in the process of completing a Teach-Out Plan in accordance with ACCET Document 32 – <u>Teach-Out/Closure Policy</u>." Consequently, the scope of the visit changed to obtaining information regarding currently enrolled students and the teach-out plan for these students, as required by ACCET Document 32 – <u>Teach-Out/Closure Policy</u>.*

Upon its review of the interim report, received June 28, 2019, and the Follow-Up Visit Report Response received August 1, 2019, the Commission voted to defer reaccreditation and extend the institution's accredited status through completion of the teach-out, to continue the Institutional Show Cause directive and to require continued staff reporting to monitor the institution's teach-out. It is noted that the institution indicated in its follow-up visit report response, that it will continue to provide services to students on externship through October 11, 2019.

Therefore the institution is directed to submit a staff report to include the following specific items:

- 1. An updated list of all students as of the announcement of closure to include the student's name, the last four digits of the social security number, program enrolled, estimated graduation date, and whether the student has transfered and to which institution or discounted their studies prior to closure.
- 2. A revised list of all current refunds due and account balances as of August 15, 2019.
- 3. All correspondence with the U.S. Department of Education from the period of July 16 August 30, 2019.
- 4. A list of all students continuing on externship to include program of study, location of externship, and expected graduation date.

A copy of this report, **including the attached staff report cover sheet**, must be emailed to **interimreports@accet.org** for receipt at the ACCET office no later than **August 30, 2019**.

As a reminder, please be advised that late submission and receipt of documents and reports are subject to significant late fees in accordance with Commission policy. These fees are outlined in ACCET Document 10, which can be found at <u>www.accet.org.</u>

Your demonstrated capabilities and commitment in support of the institution's accredited status are essential to a favorable outcome in this process. Should you have any questions or need further assistance regarding this letter, please contact the ACCET office at your earliest opportunity.

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Sincerely,

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William V. Larkin, Ed.D. Executive Director

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Enclosures: Staff Report Cover Sheet

CC: Mr. Herman Bounds, Chief, Accreditation Division, US ED (aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov) Ms. Charity Helton, Accreditation Division, US ED (charity.helton@ed.gov) Mr. Ron Bennett, Director, School EligibilityService Group, US ED (ron.bennett@ed.gov) Ms. Martina Fernandez-Rosario, ACD - San Francisco/Seattle, US ED (martina.fernandez-rosario@ed.gov) Ms. Yvette Johnson, Enforcement Chief, CA Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (yvette.johnson@dca.ca.gov) Ms. Leeza Rifredi, Deputy Bureau Chief, CA Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (leeza.rifredi@dca.ca.gov)