



LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
LCTCS President
FROM: Dr. René Cintrón
Chief Education and Training Officer
SUBJECT: Institutional Accreditation Update for Select LCTCS Colleges
DATE: 12/9/2019

Received APPROVED

12/11/19
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FOR BOARD INFORMATION:

Background: Louisiana has experienced a significant amount of change in its two-year colleges over the last two decades. We now have three institutions who hold national accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education (COE). These institutions have longstanding excellent reputations under their current accreditor. Yet, each has been given clear directives from the Louisiana Legislature and the Governor in statute to expand their institutional mission and pursue Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation. One of these three colleges that is currently COE accredited institution has reached consideration stage for SACSCOC candidacy after 7 years of attempting to transition. While some accreditation standards are complementary such as the expectation for governance and financial stability, several standards are contradictory and require colleges to maintain compliance with conflicting standards in order to maintain current accreditation while pursuing the future accreditation.

Collectively, a half dozen LCTCS colleges have earned initial SACSCOC accreditation. Some started with no accreditation. Others began with COE and transitioned to SACSCOC. We understand the work required and the need for accountability. However, we remain concerned that the process of transitioning should not limit the access to the transfer mission for on average seven years. We need a solution that first and foremost maintains accountability but also allows these three colleges to deliver on the mission to the people in their communities. Recognizing and respecting the responsibility the accreditors have to maintain their covenants with the United States Department of Education, a request for assistance by the Department in regards to transition paths from national accreditation to regional accreditation is necessary. We will be making a formal request in writing for a meeting with Department to discuss this matter.

Fiscal Impact: No additional cost will be incurred

History of Prior Actions: Since the creation of our system in 1998, four newly formed community colleges have successfully achieved SACSCOC accreditation joining three colleges that were existing members at the creation of the system. Further, two former technical colleges have successfully expanded the mission of their college and transitioned to SACSCOC accreditation. Both those newly accredited colleges and those transitioning took five to seven years to accomplish the accreditation tasks.

Benefits to the System: A solution will allow colleges to respond more effectively to students and business partners.

Monty Sullivan signature
Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Dr. Monty Sullivan

12-11-19
Date