



Illinois Board of Higher Education

Pat Quinn, Governor

Lindsay Anderson, Chair • Dr. Harry J. Berman, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Private Business & Vocational Schools approved by the IBHE

FROM: Daniel Cullen, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

DATE: June 6, 2013

RE: NCA CASI Accreditation

We are sending the attached broadly across the state because it is very important news, and although it only affects a subset of PBVSs and most should already have the information, it is likely of general interest (e.g., to any school considering accreditation changes) and absolutely critical that *all* institutions that are directly affected are informed so if even one has missed the news this communication is worthwhile.

Please see the attached regarding the accreditation of postsecondary institutions by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). We recommend contacting NCA if you have any questions.



NCA CASI
9115 Westside Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30009

ncacasi.org
888.413.3669, ext. 5639
770.346.9260 fax

January 29, 2013

Dear NCA CASI Institution:

I am writing to inform you that the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement ("NCA CASI") Board of Directors, along with the Board of its parent company, AdvancED, voted today to withdraw NCA CASI's petition to the U.S. Department of Education ("Department") for continued recognition as an accrediting agency of postsecondary institutions. Going forward, NCA CASI will no longer accredit postsecondary institutions for the purposes of participation in the Higher Education Act, Title IV, and other federal programs, but we *will* continue to accredit schools for other purposes, including school improvement.

This difficult decision was made after careful deliberation and with great reluctance, but it was a decision that needed to be made to reflect NCA CASI's strategic direction and core mission. The NCA CASI and AdvancED Boards ultimately determined that the Department's compliance model inhibits meaningful accountability regarding student outcomes, precludes secondary and postsecondary integration and coordination, and prevents NCA CASI from providing cost efficiencies that our institutions need. I am attaching to this letter NCA CASI's January 29 notification to the Department about this decision; the notification discusses in greater detail the reasons behind this difficult decision.

NCA CASI deeply regrets the disruption that may be caused to the many high-quality postsecondary institutions that we successfully serve. We are committed to supporting your institution if you plan to seek accreditation with a new accrediting agency. Under federal law, institutions may maintain their eligibility to participate in Title IV and other relevant federal programs for up to 18 months while they obtain alternative accreditation from a new accrediting agency.¹ NCA CASI staff members will help facilitate transitions that may be necessary. We are available to field your questions and can provide you with contact and other information about agencies from which you may be interested in seeking accreditation.

If you have questions, please contact me at 888-413-3669 ext. 5747 or cgasiorek@ncacasi.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carolyn Gasiorek'.

Carolyn Gasiorek, Vice President
North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement

Enclosure: January 29, 2013, letter from M. Elgart, J. Cummings, and B. Nicol to Kay Gilcher, U.S. Department of Education

¹ 20 U.S.C. § 1099c; U.S. Dep't of Educ., *Glossary*, available at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Glossary.aspx>.