BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Academy of Court Reporting

RECOMMENDATION

The Academy of Court Reporting meets the Chancellor's minimum standards, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the proposed degree programs. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), continuing recognition from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are due by May 1, 2009, April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.

Profile: The Academy of Court Reporting (ACR) is an independent, co-educational, for-profit, post-secondary institution. The college is owned and operated by Delta Educational Systems, Inc., which is a subsidiary of Gryphon Colleges Corporation. The institution operates four campuses in Ohio—Cleveland, Akron, Columbus and Cincinnati and has a current enrollment of almost 1000 students across the four campuses.

The institution was founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1970 and specialized in the training of court reporters. Over the years, the institution began to offer other associate degrees in the legal field. Currently, the mission of the institution is "to train, graduate, and assist in the placement of those individuals desiring a career as a Court Reporter, Paralegal, Private Investigator or Legal Secretary."

Accreditation/Authorization: ACR is accredited by ACICS and is recognized by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools (SBCCS). This is the institution's first request to the Chancellor and the request is in response to HB 119 of the 127th General Assembly, which requires the Chancellor's authorization for associate degree programs in proprietary colleges and schools as a condition of their students' use of OIG/OCOG funds, a state needs-based financial aid program.

Program Information: ACR is seeking authorization for the following programs:

- Associate of Applied Business in Court Reporting
- Associate of Applied Business in Paralegal
- Associate of Applied Business in Private Investigation

Each program requires at least 90 quarter hours for completion and includes course work in general education, applied general education and the technical/occupational area.

Review Results: The external review team noted several strengths during the review, including: certification from the National Court Reporting Association for the institution's court reporting programs; an institutional effectiveness plan that that documents timelines and benchmarks and

includes a budgeting process; a clear faculty evaluation and mentoring process; and an active student government.

The team also noted several areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: assess incoming students so that those not ready for college-level work are placed in developmental courses; hire appropriately credentialed librarians to ensure adequate staffing at each campus; increase the budget for library materials; enhance the breadth of its general education curriculum to be consistent with state standards for applied associate degree programs; improve the credentials of faculty members in the general education and technical areas to meet the Chancellor's faculty standards; and improve the mechanisms used to measure and improve general education outcomes.

The institution responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed programs, or, in the case of recommendations that could only be complied with over time, by presenting a clear plan for the implementation of the recommendations and a timeline for such.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: ACR meets the Chancellor's minimum standards, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the proposed degree programs. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from ACICS, continuing recognition from the SBCCS, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with standards in any area. Progress reports, reviewed at the college's expense, are due by May 1, 2009, April 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011. A follow-up review will be performed, at the college's expense, prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the programs.

End of Comment Period: April 27, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved:

5/27/09

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor **Date**

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