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**News Release
September 20, 2016**

**SACSCOC Signs Consent Order
Granting Preliminary Injunctive Relief
to Paine College, Augusta, Georgia**

On September 19, 2016, the leadership of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) agreed to a Consent Order Granting Preliminary Injunction that reinstated the accreditation of Paine College, located in Augusta, Georgia, with SACSCOC. Paine College is continued as a member on Probation pending further Order of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. SACSCOC revokes all prior notifications regarding Paine College's September 12, 2016, removal of accreditation.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and some institutions in Latin America. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees is the 77-member representative body of approximately 800-member institutions and its College Delegate Assembly and is charged with carrying out the accreditation process. To gain or maintain accreditation, an institution must comply with SACSCOC's policies and with all standards contained in the *Principles of Accreditation*.

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