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# Council of

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# Regional Accrediting Commissions

March 4, 2025

Secretary Linda McMahon  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon:

As members of the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC), we congratulate you on your confirmation as the Secretary of Education. It is a tremendous honor, and we are looking forward to working with you and your staff to improve the quality of higher education for all students in our country. Because of your long service as a trustee at Sacred Heart University, we know that you already share that ambition and appreciate how the process of accreditation works to support student success.

C-RAC's seven federally recognized institutional accrediting commissions are responsible for accrediting almost 2,800 postsecondary, degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States. These include over 1,500 public, 1,100 private non-profits, and nearly 100 private for-profit institutions. Accrediting commissions are private, nonprofit organizations and provide oversight and accountability of diverse institutions, including faith-based institutions, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU), other minority-serving institutions (MSI), community colleges, research universities, and tribal colleges, among others. The commissions and peer evaluation teams at the heart of the accrediting enterprise are made up of volunteers, and at least one of every seven commissioners is a representative of the public.

During the first Trump Administration, we worked collaboratively and successfully with the Department to improve accreditation. Under your leadership, we believe there are many ways to further improve policies and regulations related to accreditation in this country. By way of examples, we offer several opportunities below.

We are aware of, and support, the desire of the Administration to facilitate the recognition of new accreditors, which increases competition and provides additional options for institutions. Although it is important to hold all accreditors to the same federal rules and regulations, we believe there are many ways to improve the current system of recognition and oversight by the Department.

Regulations should also be updated to allow more flexibility in how we approach current requirements related to site visits and institutional requests for "substantive changes." Such updates could save accreditors and institutions significant resources, both human and financial, as well as improve any return on investments.

As a final example, the process for institutions seeking to change ownership or for moving to a new accreditor have become overly bureaucratic resulting in extended periods of time for

Department reviews and approvals. These policies should be re-evaluated and updated for more expedient processing while ensuring the quality and integrity of the accreditation process.

Significant opportunities to work together in the coming months and years are before us, and we welcome them. For example, building upon prior efforts to improve the collection and reporting of data relevant to institutional outcomes; addressing ways to improve the efficiency and approval of transfer of credits for students; and by expanding the focus on innovation and workforce readiness efforts.

America's system of higher education remains the envy of the world. That is intentional and the results of the quality assurance and oversight the Triad manages. We stand ready to work with you to ensure this distinction.

Again, congratulations on your important new role. We are eager to collaborate with you in support of the success of all students. We invite a meeting with you and other Department leaders when you are ready to meet with us. Please contact the Chair of C-RAC, Dr. Heather Perfetti, by phone at (267) 284-5026 or by email at [hperfetti@msche.org](mailto:hperfetti@msche.org) so that we can begin our work together.

Sincerely,



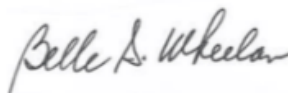
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