



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Anthony Bieda, ACICS
abieda@acics.org
(202) 336-6781 – office
(202) 905-6845 – cell

ACICS Annual Report Sheds Light on Efforts to Demonstrate “Excellence Under Scrutiny”

(Washington, DC) March 8, 2012 – Today, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) released its 2011 Annual Report – *Standards of Excellence Under Scrutiny* – to highlight the organization’s efforts to demonstrate transparency, illustrate measureable learning outcomes, and improve quality for both students and institutions. The report also addresses the current policy and media environment in which ACICS has been operating over the last twelve months.

“Last year brought several ACICS-accredited institutions to the forefront of public debate on quality and student outcomes, yet strides forward have been made by ACICS and the colleges we accredit to ensure our students receive a high quality, focused degree,” said ACICS Executive Director Dr. Al Gray.

The Annual Report details the impact of new business models and metrics, as well as insightful research on improving student achievement. It also outlines the steps taken to establish program-level requirements for retention and placement rates that will complement existing measures to ensure students are workforce-ready.

“In 2011, the emphasis shifted to the heart of the enterprise, focusing greater attention on the quality of the educational experience itself, with a particular interest on transparent and data-driven measures of student achievement,” Dr. Al Gray said.

Other highlights of the 2011 Annual Report include:

- Results of the research presented at the Workforce Skills Reality Check [event](#) held in December, which found that many hiring decision-makers believe that the post-secondary education system could do a better job of preparing students for the workplace;
- A review of efforts by ACICS to aggregate information on program-level data from various locations into a single source, making it more accessible for policymakers and alleviating some of the reporting burdens for member institutions; and
- ACICS Accreditation “By the Numbers,” featuring the number of new grants, new branch applications, workshops, webinars, and more.

Please visit the [ACICS Web site](#) to view the complete 2011 ACICS Annual Report.

ACICS Annual Report Webinar: Register Now!

On Friday, March 9 at 2 p.m. (EST), ACICS will host an informational web-based seminar to review highlights of the Annual Report and answer questions from participants. To register for this event, please visit <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/974389834>.

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About the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

Founded in 1912, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) is one of the most respected and longest established national accreditors of academic institutions in the United States. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). ACICS accredits more than 800 private post-secondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas, as well as institutions offering associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees in programs designed to educate students for professional, technical, or occupational degrees. For more information, please visit www.acics.org.

About the ACICS Centennial

ACICS will recognize its 100 years of service throughout 2012 with a number of events and initiatives designed to engage schools, faculty, students, and employers in the community. In May, ACICS will launch a week-long [community service initiative](#) to provide an opportunity for schools and students to give back to the communities in which they serve. In November, the ACICS Centennial Gala in Las Vegas will highlight the agency's rich history of serving a leading role in helping students gain access to quality career education. Click [here](#) for more information on the ACICS Centennial and related activities.

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