

**For Immediate Release**  
October 4, 2017

**Media Contact:** Andrea Reid  
[media@acics.org](mailto:media@acics.org)  
(202) 336-6780

## **ACICS Submits Application to Department of Education for Recognition as a National Accreditor**

(Washington, D.C.) The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) announced today that has submitted to the Department of Education a formal petition for recognition as a national accreditor.

“ACICS has fundamentally changed as an organization and we are a better accreditor today because of the hard work undertaken in the last year,” said Michelle Edwards, the new president of ACICS. “We have done more than simply address the concerns raised by the Secretary of Education. We have examined every aspect of our accreditation criteria and process and have implemented reforms aimed at strengthening the quality of education provided to students attending ACICS-accredited institutions. We look forward to working with the Department at this critical juncture and I am confident that ACICS will demonstrate its effectiveness as an accrediting organization deserving of recognition.”

In June 2016, ACICS launched several meaningful reform efforts and since then has made significant progress in the following categories:

- ACICS has adopted and aggressively implemented new Accreditation Criteria to improve the effectiveness of its accreditation process, with particular emphasis on student outcomes;
- ACICS has established and implemented more robust standards, overhauling the architecture for collecting and verifying data, and implementing interim monitoring procedures;
- ACICS has overhauled and strengthened its monitoring approaches to identify and report problems with continued compliance;
- ACICS has strengthened its standards to be clear that institutions must come into compliance with the Council’s standards within specified time frames or accreditation

will be withdrawn. ACICS has taken prompt action to withdraw accreditation from institutions that have failed to meet its standards; and

- ACICS has strengthened its governance practices to support the integrity of accreditation process and decision-making.

In June 2016, ACICS made the decision to no longer accept new applications for initial accreditation, in order to focus the organization's resources on strengthening its standards and practices. ACICS accredits 239 institutions with 560 main and branch campuses throughout the United States and abroad. ACICS continues to be recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the CHEA Committee on Recognition has recommended to its Board of Trustees that ACICS's recognition be continued for three years, a decision which has been taken under advisement.

