



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
Office of Higher Education  
Office of the Professions

CEO 02-08

December 27, 2002

To: Chief Executive Officers of Degree-Granting Institutions in New York State

From: Johanna Duncan-Poitier *Johanna Duncan-Poitier*

Subject: Important Information about New York Colleges that are Institutionally Accredited by the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education in Their Capacity as a Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agency

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education has renewed its recognition of the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for institutional accreditation of degree-granting institutions in New York State. A copy of the Secretary of Education's letter is attached.

The purposes of this memorandum are:

- to distinguish the State approval process from institutional accreditation by the Regents and the Commissioner, and
- to encourage you to recognize credit earned by students at colleges that are institutionally accredited by the Regents and the Commissioner.

#### State Approval Process

In New York, all institutions seeking to confer degrees must first receive Regents authorization. Then, the State Education Department reviews and registers (approves) the individual programs of study leading to degrees and credit-bearing certificates fully creditable toward degrees at the institution according to standards of academic quality in the *Regulations of the Commissioner of Education*. Together, Regents authorization to confer degrees and State Education Department program registration make up the State approval process.

#### Institutional Accreditation by the Regents and the Commissioner

*In addition* to review under the State approval process, 24 colleges in New York have voluntarily sought institutional accreditation by the Regents and the Commissioner in

their capacity as a national accrediting agency. The Regents and the Commissioner are the only state entity that the U.S. Secretary has recognized to accredit degree-granting institutions. They are identified on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at [www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/accreditation/natl agencies.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/accreditation/natl agencies.html) under the category "Other."

The institutions accredited by the Regents and the Commissioner reflect the diversity of educational programs available in New York and range from two-year vocational colleges to graduate-only institutions offering doctoral study. A complete list of all 24 colleges is attached to this memorandum. Standards used to accredit these institutions are based on detailed requirements in Federal regulations (CFR 602), the same regulations that govern the regional accrediting bodies and the specialized agencies given national recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The Regents standards can be found in the *Rules of the Board of Regents*, Part 4. The complete accreditation standards and other information about institutional accreditation in New York are available on the State Education Department's Office of Higher Education Web site at [www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/accredinfo.htm](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/accredinfo.htm).

#### Accepting Transfer Credit from Institutions Accredited by the Regents and the Commissioner

When a student seeks to transfer credit for study completed at one of the colleges accredited by the Regents and the Commissioner, I encourage you to evaluate and accept that credit as you would credit earned at institutions accredited by a regional accrediting body or other accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

#### For Additional Information

I hope this information is helpful. Additional information is available on the Office of Higher Education's Web site at [www.highered.nysed.gov](http://www.highered.nysed.gov). If you have follow-up questions or need specific guidance, please contact Joseph Frey, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Quality Assurance, at (518) 486-3633 or via e-mail at [jfrey@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:jfrey@mail.nysed.gov).

#### Attachments

cc: Academic Deans  
Directors of Admission



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

October 2, 2002

Dr. Richard Mills  
Commissioner of Education  
New York State Board of Regents  
The University of the State of New York  
Albany, New York 12234

Com/HEC/1166  
DEPT. OF EDUCATION

Dear Dr. Mills:

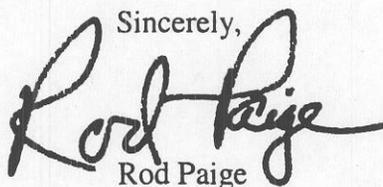
At its June 3-5, 2002 meeting, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity recommended that I renew for a period of three years the recognition of the New York State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency and that I amend the agency's scope of recognition to the following, "the accreditation of those degree-granting institutions of higher education in New York that designate the agency as their sole or primary nationally recognized accrediting agency for purposes of establishing eligibility to participate in HEA programs." These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

I concur with these recommendations of the National Advisory Committee. I am satisfied that accreditation by the New York State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education is a required element in enabling the institutions it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in programs administered by the Department of Education under the HEA. Accordingly, for a period of three years from the date of this letter, I shall continue to list the New York State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for the accreditation of those degree-granting institutions of higher education in New York that designate the agency as their sole or primary nationally recognized accrediting agency for purposes of establishing eligibility to participate in HEA programs.

I also concur with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the Board should submit a progress report by December 1, 2003 on the agency's implementation of its standards review process for review at the Committee's Spring 2004 meeting. When you submit your progress report, kindly provide one original and three copies.

Please convey my best wishes to the members of the Board. I appreciate their continuing efforts to improve the quality of postsecondary education in the United States.

Sincerely,

  
Rod Paige

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACCREDITED BY THE NEW YORK STATE  
BOARD OF REGENTS AND THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

American Academy of Dramatic Arts  
Bramson ORT College  
Bryant and Stratton Business Institute, Albany  
Bryant and Stratton Business Institute, Buffalo  
Bryant and Stratton Business Institute, Rochester  
Bryant and Stratton Business Institute, Syracuse  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory  
Gamla College  
Globe Institute of Technology  
Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary  
Institute of Design and Construction  
Interboro Institute  
The King's College  
New York Academy of Art  
New York Career Institute  
North Shore-L. I. Jewish Graduate School of Molecular Medicine  
Northeastern Seminary  
Plaza Business Institute  
Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary  
The Rockefeller University  
Sunbridge College  
Technical Career Institutes  
Utica School of Commerce  
Wood/Tobe-Coburn School