

ATTENTION STUDENTS

Pacific Institute of Technology (PIT) is currently accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). As we informed you in our last student luncheon, the U.S. Department of Education issued a final decision on December 12, 2016 not to re-recognize ACICS. A school or college must be accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department, if it wants its students to be able to apply for Title IV financial aid (Pell Grants and Direct Student Loans).

When ACICS lost its recognition by the Department, the Department required PIT and all other institutions accredited by ACICS that participate in the Title IV programs to do certain things by certain deadlines. One of those deadlines was to submit an application for accreditation to and have it accepted by a “federally-recognized agency” (one recognized by the Department) within 90 days from December 12, 2016. This requirement is referred to as having an application “in process” by that 90-day deadline.

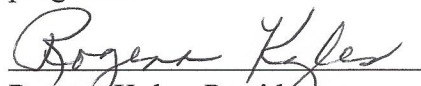
If that deadline was not met, then the institution is required to notify students in writing that as an ACICS-accredited institution, it has a maximum of 18 months from December 12, 2016 to obtain accreditation from a federally-recognized accrediting agency or it will lose its eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. This means that students attending the institution would not qualify for Title IV financial aid after the 18 months. The 18 months expires on June 12, 2018.

Although, as you were told in January, PIT was scheduled to have an accreditation visit from the Council on Occupational Education (COE), a federally-recognized agency, the new owners of PIT felt that COE accreditation was not broad enough to cover all the programs that the college planned to offer in future. The decision was made to cancel the COE application and look for accreditation with a different, federally-recognized agency.

PIT has identified a different agency, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and I will be attending their April 20-21, 2017 pre-application workshop, an ACCSC requirement before an accreditation application can be submitted.

But the decision to choose ACCSC means that PIT did not have an application “in process” by the Department’s 90-day deadline. Because of that, PIT is providing this notice to you as required by the Department.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see me at any time or feel free to talk to Angelia. You can be sure that all of us at PIT are committed to your successful completion of your programs.


Rogena Kyles, President

April 12, 2017