



May 8, 2015

Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo
President
Texas A & M University - Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place
Killeen, TX 76549

Dear Dr. Nigliazzo:

Your institution is scheduled to begin its decennial review in anticipation of action on reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in 2018. To assist you as you begin this review, we invite you and other representatives from your institution to participate in **orientation activities for the 2018 Reaffirmation Class**.

Based on the feedback received from attendees of previous orientations and in order to reduce travel costs for institutional representatives, the orientation activities for the Class of 2018 will be integrated into the **2015 SACSCOC Annual Meeting** program rather than held as a stand-alone event in Atlanta. This year's Annual Meeting will be held in Houston, Texas, December 5-8, 2015. A set of sessions has been designated for the Class of 2018 representatives, beginning with a luncheon meeting on Sunday, December 6, and concluding with a wrap-up session conducted by your SACSCOC staff liaison on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Please note that in addition to registering for the Annual Meeting, there is a \$50 registration fee to cover the Sunday luncheon and additional costs. Dr. Alexei Matveev, Director of Training and Research for SACSCOC, will be sending you an email that will provide you with more specific information about the orientation activities, including a schedule and registration instructions.

Each institution is asked to establish a **Leadership Team** for the duration of its reaffirmation project. The team usually consists of four to six individuals and typically includes the president/chancellor, the chief academic officer, the chief financial officer, a faculty member, and the institution's designated accreditation liaison. Please consider including your chief financial officer as one of your institutional participants in the Orientation activities at the 2015 Annual Meeting because we have scheduled special sessions that will address financial reporting requirements related to the reaffirmation process.

The orientation activities are designed to provide your institution's Leadership Team with an overview of the reaffirmation process, with particular attention to discussing issues, challenges, and strategies for the development of a successful Compliance Certification Report and Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). It also will be an opportunity to meet your SACSCOC staff member and to interact with other institutions beginning the reaffirmation process.

As a regional accrediting commission, SACSCOC evaluation committees conduct a *comprehensive review* of an institution at the time of an institution's reaffirmation. When



Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo
May 8, 2015
Page 2

reaffirmed, the Commission is making a public statement about the quality of your *total institution and all its programs*, wherever offered. Therefore, I urge you and your staff to review SACSCOC's substantive change policy and procedures to ensure that your institution remains in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.12 in the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*. This standard requires an institution to notify SACSCOC of changes of a substantive nature in accordance with the policy and, when required, to seek approval prior to the initiation of changes. Please visit our website (www.sacscoc.org/SubstantiveChange.asp) to review a summary of each member institution's responsibilities with regard to substantive change. I am alerting you to this policy because failure to comply can affect Title IV funding for programs at your institution.

In early fall, as you prepare for the orientation activities, you will receive ten copies of the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*, the *Handbook for Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation of Accreditation*, and the *Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation*. All these documents are posted on our website and can be accessed at www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp for the *Principles* and www.sacscoc.org/handbooks.asp for the handbooks. We would appreciate you and your staff reviewing these documents prior to the orientation activities that will be held during the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in December 2015. Other materials related to reaffirmation can be found at www.sacscoc.org/inst_forms_and_info1.asp. This page focuses primarily on documents that will assist you during the reaffirmation process.

The best to you and your academic community as you begin this very important institutional improvement process. Please feel free to contact your Commission staff representative for assistance as you progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/CAL:lp

cc: Dr. Crystal A. Baird