



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302
Arlington, Virginia 22201
703.247.4212
703.247.4533 fax
www.accsc.org

April 27, 2017

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Mary Zad
Owner
Westech Colleges
9460 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, California 92335

Re: Westech College - Fontana, CA School #M058810
Westech College - Moreno Valley, CA School #B072283
Westech College -Victorville, CA School #B072161

Dear Ms. Zad:

On April 13, 2017, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) issued a letter to Westech Colleges withdrawing the accreditation of the schools referenced above and informing the school of its right to appeal that decision. As of the date of this letter, Westech College has not filed the Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision as provided in the April 13, 2017 letter from ACCSC. Accordingly, the Commission’s decision to withdraw the accreditation of the schools referenced above as of March 30, 2017 is final (*Section VII (B)(3), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

Although the schools referenced above have closed, should operations begin again the schools must ensure that there are no references to or claims of ACCSC accreditation in their catalogs, advertising, statements, or promotional materials (*Section VII (P)(4)(a-b), Rules of Process and Procedure; Section IV (B), Substantive Standards; Standards of Accreditation*).

For further information or assistance regarding this matter, please contact me directly at 703.247.4520 or mccomis@accsc.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michale S. McComis'.

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director



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April 13, 2017

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY &
FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mary Zad
Owner
Westech Colleges
9460 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, California 92335

**Re: Westech College - Fontana, CA School #M058810
Westech College - Moreno Valley, CA School #B072283
Westech College - Victorville, CA School #B072161**

Dear Ms. Zad:

On March 30, 2017, officials representing the California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education informed the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (“ACCSC” or “the Commission”) that the above Westech Colleges (“Westech”) ceased operations. The schools closed their doors without any prior notification and without an approved teach-out plan.¹

ACCSC accrediting standards state that a school will be considered to have had its accreditation withdrawn if the school closes without notification or closes without an ACCSC approved teach-out plan that the school faithfully executes (*Section VII (P)(5) and Section VII (Q)(5) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*). Westech closed precipitously without any prior notification and without an approved teach-out plan. Accordingly, the Commission considers the accreditation of the above-listed locations of Westech College as having their accreditation withdrawn by ACCSC effective **March 30, 2017**.

In accordance with *Section X, Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, the reasons for the Withdrawal are made public and provided to the U.S. Department of Education, appropriate state agencies, and appropriate accrediting agencies.

TEACH-OUT PLAN

Pursuant to federal law, an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education must require a teach-out plan from an institution subject to an adverse accreditation decision to withdraw accreditation. Although the school is closed, in the Commission’s estimation the school’s responsibility to ensure the completion of each student’s training program has not ceased. Therefore, in accordance with *Section IV (F)(1)(c) Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* the Commission requires that Westech submit a completed ACCSC Institutional Teach-Out Plan Approval Form.² The schools’ Teach-Out Plan must be submitted **on or before April 24, 2017**.

¹ At the time of closure Westech College in Moreno Valley was on **Warning** status with ACCSC and although the Westech Colleges submitted a teach-out plan as directed by ACCSC, the plan was found to be insufficient and thus not approved.

² Available online at: <http://www.accsc.org/Content/FormsAndReports/FormsAndReports.asp>

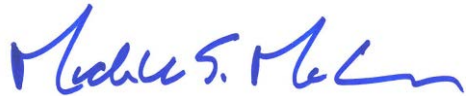
APPEAL AND REAPPLICATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

Westech may opt to appeal the Commission's decision to withdraw accreditation or to reapply for accreditation. Details regarding the reapplication and appeal procedures are outlined in the *ACCSC Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*.

- If the school elects to appeal this withdrawal, the school must sign and return the enclosed Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision, along with the Appeal Expense Fee of \$6,000.00, **on or before April 24, 2017**.
- If the school elects to appeal this withdrawal, the school's Application for Appeal of a Commission Decision and Grounds for Appeal must be submitted **on or before May 15, 2017**.
- If the school elects not to appeal this withdrawal, the Commission's decision to withdraw the school's accreditation as of **March 30, 2017** will become final. Any school may submit comments **on or before May 15, 2017** in accordance with the enclosed Public Comment Disclosure Form. Comments submitted by a school will accompany any public disclosure of a final Commission action pursuant to *Section X (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*.

For additional information regarding the Commission's decision, please contact me directly at 703.247.4520 or mccomis@accsc.org.

Sincerely,



Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

c: California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education
Joanne.wenzel@dca.ca.gov

U.S. Department of Education
Martina.Fernandez-Rosario@ed.gov

Encls: Letter of Intent to Appeal a Commission Decision
Standing Appeals Panel Members
Public Comment Disclosure Form



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LETTER OF INTENT TO APPEAL A COMMISSION DECISION

To Be Submitted No Later Than April 24, 2017

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director
ACCSC
2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite #302
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Dr. McComis:

This letter serves to provide notice that Westech College intends to appeal the recent decision of the Commission to revoke the school's accreditation and remove the school from the list of ACCSC-accredited institutions. Attached is a check in the amount of \$6,000 as required by accreditation procedures. I understand that this fee is non-refundable.

I understand that the ACCSC Appeals Panel will meet to consider the appeal of the school and that I will receive final confirmation of the hearing at a later date. I have reviewed *Section VIII, Rules of Process and Procedures of the Standards of Accreditation* pertaining to appeals and noted that I am entitled to a transcript of the proceedings and to have representatives, including legal counsel, present with advance notification to ACCSC.

I understand that it is the right of the a school to appeal an adverse action taken by the Commission on the grounds that the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or otherwise in substantial disregard of the criteria or procedures of the Commission, or not supported by substantial evidence in the record on which the Commission took the action (*Section VIII (B), Rules of Process and Procedures, Standards of Accreditation*). I understand that because the appeal must be based on evidence in the record at the time that the Commission took the adverse action, no new evidence may be submitted during the appeal process, other than information related to the financial solvency and condition of the school.

I understand it is the right of a school intending to appeal a Commission decision to indicate whether there is good cause as to why any member of the Commission's Standing Appeal Panel should not hear the appeal. I have reviewed the list of Standing Appeal Panel members and have included with this notice any objections to any member of the Standing Appeal Member with the reasons and cause why I believe a member should not hear the school's appeal. I understand the absence of a submission with this notice indicates my approval to allow any member of the Standing Appeal Panel to sit for the school's appeal.

I understand that the Application for Appeal of Commission Decision with the school's Grounds for Appeal are due to ACCSC **on or before May 15, 2017**, and I agree to submit that material on or before that date. I understand that failure to submit these required documents by the due date could prevent consideration of the school's appeal.

Signature

Date

Name/Title



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ACCSC Standing Appeals Panel Members

Panel Member	Affiliation	Term Ending
Gary Baker	U.S. Department of Education (Retired) Springfield, Virginia <i>Public Member</i>	2019
Paul Bott, Ed.D.	Pacific College Costa Mesa, California <i>Public Member</i>	2020
Nancy Bradley	Daytona College Ormond Beach, Florida <i>School Member</i>	2020
Mary Cano	Western Technical College El Paso, Texas <i>School Member</i>	2018
Paul Fitzgerald	Erie Institute of Technology Erie, Pennsylvania <i>School Member</i>	2019
Lorne P. Gauthier	Northwest Technological Institute Southfield, Michigan <i>School Member</i>	2017
William James	U.S. Department of Education (Retired) Fairfax, Virginia <i>Public Member</i>	2019
Timothy McMahon	Triangle Tech Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania <i>School Member</i>	2020
Cedric D. Page, Ph.D.	University of New Mexico – Los Alamos Los Alamos, New Mexico <i>Public Member</i>	2019
Kathleen J. Steinberg	Midwest Technical Institute Lincoln, Illinois <i>School Member</i>	2018
Raymond Tuttle, Ph.D.	University of Mary Washington Fredericksburg, Virginia <i>Public Member</i>	2020



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PUBLIC COMMENT DISCLOSURE FORM

To Be Submitted No Later Than May 15, 2017

Michale S. McComis, Ed.D.
Executive Director
ACCSC
2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite #302
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: Westech College
9460 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, California 92335

Dear Dr. McComis:

I understand and agree that the Commission, pursuant to *Section X (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*, will make public a summary of the reasons for the decision together with any comments submitted by the school. I further understand that the summary will be accompanied by the attached comments.

I understand and agree that the attached comments constitute Westech College’s public comments on the adverse accreditation action that are to be disseminated with the public notice of the Commission’s decision effective March 30, 2017 including, but not limited to, posting to the ACCSC website (*Section X (D)(4), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation*).

I understand and agree that the school is not obligated to submit public comments and acknowledge that the attached comments are provided voluntarily.

I understand and agree that the public comments must be in summary format and that the comments must be limited to two type written pages (no smaller than 11 pt. font with one inch margins). I acknowledge that any comments which do not meet these requirements will not be disseminated or posted along with the summary of the reasons for the adverse accreditation decision.

I understand and agree that the Commission will release its summary of the adverse accreditation decision to the public pursuant to *Section X (D)(3), Rules of Process and Procedure, Standards of Accreditation* and that the school’s written comments will not be added to this disclosure if this form and comments are not submitted in the required format **on or before May 15, 2017.**

I understand and agree that the Commission has no responsibility for how the school’s comments may be used once they are put in the public domain.

Signature

Date

Name/Title