



November 20, 2023

Mr. Aaron Walton
President
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
1837 University Circle
P. O. Box 200
Cheyney, PA 19319-0200

Notification of Non-Compliance Action

Dear Mr. Walton:

On behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, I am writing to inform you that on November 16, 2023, the Commission acted as follows:

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report requested by the Commission action of June 22, 2023. To note the on-site follow-up team visit by the Commission's representatives to the main campus at 1837 University Circle, Cheyney, PA 19319 on September 5-6, 2023. To acknowledge receipt of additional information provided by the institution on October 23, 2023. To place the institution on probation and note that the institution's accreditation is in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard II (Ethics and Integrity), Standard III (Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience), Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement), and former Requirements of Affiliation 5 and 11. To note the institution remains accredited while on probation. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance, which started on November 16, 2023. To request a monitoring report, due March 1, 2024, demonstrating evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standard II (Ethics and Integrity); Standard III (Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience); Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement); and former Requirements of Affiliation 5 and 11, including but not limited to (1) compliance with all applicable government laws and regulations and Commission policies and procedures (Standard II, former Requirement of Affiliation 5, and Substantive Change Policy and Procedures); (2) compliance with federal Clery Act reporting (Standard II and former Requirement of Affiliation 5); (3) adequate and appropriate institutional review and approval on any student learning opportunities designed, delivered, or assessed by third-party providers (Standard III and Substantive Change Policy and Procedures); (4) periodic assessment of third-party providers, consideration of results, and follow-

up when warranted (Standard III); (5) the assessment of the adequacy and efficient utilization of institutional resources required to support the institution's mission and goals (Standard VI); (6) financial planning and budget processes that are aligned with the mission, goals, and objectives and are evidence-based (Standard VI); (7) adequate fiscal and human resources, including physical and technical infrastructure, to support operations (Standard VI); (8) compliance with its program responsibilities under existing federal title IV and other state laws and regulations, including any audits of financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations and updated financial information relating to the institution's Heightened Cash Monitoring (HCM2) status (Standard VI); and (9) an annual independent audit confirming financial viability with evidence of follow-up on any cited concerns, including but not limited to the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2023 (Standard VI and former Requirement of Affiliation 11) (Fourteenth Edition and Evidence Expectations by Standards Guidelines). To request that the monitoring report also include further evidence of (1) periodic assessment of the effectiveness of assessment processes utilized by the institution to improve educational effectiveness (Standard V); (2) an administration with members with credentials and professional experience consistent with the mission of the organization and their functional roles (Standard VII); and (3) systematic procedures for evaluating administrative units and for using assessment data to enhance operations (Standard VII). To require that the institution complete and submit for approval, by March 1, 2024, a comprehensive, implementable teach-out plan and signed teach-out agreements with appropriate teach-out partner institutions (Teach-Out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures). In accordance with Commission policy and federal regulations, the teach-out plan must provide for the equitable treatment of students to complete their education or transfer to another institution, if the Commission were to withdraw accreditation. To note the Commission may reject the teach-out plan and require resubmission if all of the required information is not provided. To remind the institution of its obligation to inform the Commission of its status with local, state, federal, and other relevant agencies. To direct a follow-up team visit following submission of the monitoring report. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. The date of the next evaluation will be determined upon reaffirmation of accreditation.

This action is a non-compliance action. An explanation of this type of action is provided in the Commission's *Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*. If any of the information contained within the action appears to be factually incorrect, please send an email within 60 calendar days of the date of the action to actions@msche.org.

Pursuant to the Commission's *Communication in the Accreditation Process Policy and Procedures*, this letter serves as the Commission's official notification of this action. This accreditation action will be publicly available on the Commission's website within 24 hours of informing the institution. In accordance with policy and federal regulation, the Commission

provides notification of non-compliance actions to the United States Secretary of Education, the appropriate state or other licensing or authorizing agency, and the appropriate accrediting agencies at the same time it notifies the institution, but no later than 30 days after it takes the action.

Commission policy and procedures allow for the submission of an optional institutional statement, which will be posted on the Commission's website, in response to the above non-compliance action. Any institutional statement must be on institutional letterhead, signed by an authorized representative of the institution, and submitted as a PDF document. Because the institutional statement will be posted publicly, it is important that the institutional statement address the accreditation issue and avoid issues that are not relevant to the action. Hyperlinks are not permitted to be used. The submission of an optional institutional statement must be sent to actions@msche.org within 60 calendar days from the date of the action.

Pursuant to the Commission's *Public Disclosures Policy and Procedures* and federal regulation 34 CFR § 602.26(b), the institution is required to publicly disclose an accurate representation of its current accreditation phase and accreditation status with the Commission, which you will find on the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) at the Commission's website. The institution is required to publicly disclose non-compliance and adverse actions. The Commission provides procedures and a sample statement for this disclosure in the *Public Disclosures Policy and Procedures* which must be implemented within seven calendar days of this notification where accreditation is referenced on the institution's website and wherever accreditation is referenced in publications.

It is critical for the institution to review and understand the Commission's policies and procedures which will explain the Commission's actions and the institution's accreditation status:

[*Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Communication in the Accreditation Process Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Public Disclosures Policy and Procedures*](#)

[*Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation*](#)

For questions about the Commission's actions, please contact the institution's assigned Commission staff liaison. Questions from the public about the institution's accreditation phase or accreditation status can be directed to communications@msche.org. For additional information, visit www.msche.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather F. Perfetti", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heather F. Perfetti, J.D., Ed.D.
President