



June 29, 2023

Ms. Joanne Mahoney  
President  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
One Forestry Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13210

### **Notification of Non-Compliance Action**

Dear Ms. Mahoney:

On behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, I am writing to inform you that on June 22, 2023, the Commission acted as follows:

To acknowledge receipt of the supplemental information report. To note the follow-up visit was conducted by the Commission's representatives to the main campus at 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210, on March 27-28, 2023. To note further that the verification visit required by USDE guidelines as noted in the action of June 23, 2022, has been completed. To warn the institution that its accreditation may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with Standard V (Educational Effectiveness Assessment) and Standard VI (Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement). To note that the institution remains accredited while on warning. To note further that federal regulations limit the period during which an institution may be in non-compliance, which starts on June 22, 2023. To request a monitoring report due January 16, 2024, demonstrating evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with Standards V and VI, including but not limited to (1) student learning programs that are characterized by coherence and appropriate assessment of student achievement throughout the institution's educational offerings, at both institutional and program levels, with evidence that faculty and appropriate institutional stakeholders have considered and used assessment results to improve teaching and learning (Standard V); (2) the development and implementation of organized and systematic assessments that evaluate the extent of student achievement in general education (Standard V); and (3) clearly stated, aligned, and coherent institutional and unit objectives, with evidence of the implementation of a systematic, organized, and sustained assessment process demonstrating that institutional and unit stakeholders have considered and used assessment results in planning, budgeting, and the improvement of institutional and unit effectiveness (Standard VI). 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 next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2029-2030.

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*. Please note that this action reflects evaluation using the Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation (Thirteenth Edition); however, future reporting and evaluation will require use of the Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation (Fourteenth Edition). 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@msche.org). For additional information, visit [www.msche.org](http://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