



July 6, 2021

Rev. Dr. Douglas A. Blanc
Interim President
1 Christfield Avenue
Johnson City, NY 13790

Dear Rev. Dr. Blanc:

Notification of Non-Compliance Action

On behalf of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, I am writing to inform you that on June 24, 2021, the Commission acted as follows:

To acknowledge receipt of the monitoring report. To note that the institution hosted a virtual site visit in lieu of an on-site visit in accordance with United States Department of Education (USDE) guidelines published March 17, 2020. To require the institution to show cause, by September 1, 2021, to demonstrate why its accreditation should not be withdrawn because of insufficient evidence that the institution is in compliance with Standard V (Educational Effectiveness Assessment) and Standard VI (Planning,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 show cause. To rescind the Commission's March 5, 2020 action to grant an extension for good cause because changes in July 1, 2020 federal regulations and Commission policy and procedures now allow an initial non-compliance period of 36 months. To require a show cause report, due September 1, 2021, documenting evidence that the institution has achieved and can sustain ongoing compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements. The show cause report must include evidence of (1) clearly stated educational goals at the institutional and degree/program levels, which are interrelated with one another, with relevant educational experiences, and with the institution's mission (Standard V); (2) documentation that its student learning programs are characterized by coherence and appropriate assessment of student achievement throughout its 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); (3) demonstrated sufficiency of resources to fulfill its mission and goals and to support its educational purposes and programs (Standard VI); and (4) 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 an on-site show cause visit following submission of the report. The purpose of the on-site show cause visit is to verify the information provided in the show cause report and the institution's ongoing and sustainable compliance with the Commission's standards, requirements, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements. To direct a prompt Commission liaison guidance visit to discuss the Commission's expectations. To note that the institution will be invited to present before the Commission when it meets to

consider the institution's show cause report. 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.

The institution is invited to make a presentation to the Commission when the Commission considers the institution's show cause report. The *Show Cause Appearance Before the Commission Prior to Withdrawal of Accreditation* describes the procedures. Please note that the institution is required to inform the Commission of its intent to appear before the Commission at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Commission meeting at which the adverse action will be considered. Additional communications will be sent from the President's Office relating to this process.

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](#)

[Teach-out Plans and Agreements Policy and Procedures](#)

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