



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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February 26, 2018

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

David Halperin  
Attorney & Counselor  
1530 P Street NW 2nd floor  
Washington DC 20005  
davidhalperindc@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Halperin:

On February 12, 2018, our office received your request for various records related to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's (CHE) communication with the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and the U.S. Department of Education. Your requests are specifically:

1. Any and all records constituting or concerning communications between the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), regarding ACICS's application to the U.S. Department of Education for recognition as an accreditor.
2. Any and all records constituting or concerning communications between the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education regarding ACICS's application to the U.S. Department of Education for recognition as an accreditor.

With regard to Item (1), our office is in possession of one email from a legal representative of ACICS. This record will be provided electronically and is attached.

With regard to Item (2), our office does not possess any records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Schilz", is written over the typed name.

Jeff Schilz

Attachment

## Goodwin, Lane

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**From:** Nelson, Justin <JNelson@duanemorris.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 2:58 PM  
**To:** Goodwin, Lane  
**Cc:** Barton, Clay  
**Subject:** ACICS Seeking Letter of Support from South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Ms. Goodwin,

This is Justin Nelson, I hope this message finds you well. I had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Barton this afternoon and he mentioned that it would be best to get in touch with you on this matter.

Our legal team is reaching out to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on behalf of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). As you may be aware, ACICS accredits a variety of postsecondary institutions, many of whom operate in South Carolina or are approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Currently ACICS is in the process of applying to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) for recognition as an institutional accreditor. As part of this process, ACICS is required to demonstrate that its role as an institutional accreditor is accepted by state licensing bodies.

To demonstrate this, we are hoping that the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will join with other state licensing bodies in supporting ACICS by submitting a letter to the USDOE indicating that the Board accepts ACICS as a valid accreditor. If you have any time this week to discuss this matter it would be greatly appreciated, my schedule is flexible.

Thank you for your time,

**Justin Nelson**  
**Duane Morris**  
750 B Street, Suite 2900  
San Diego, CA 92101

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For more information about Duane Morris, please visit <http://www.DuaneMorris.com>

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