been the subject of extensive press coverage. Through the press coverage and through his predecessor's earlier efforts to sell the Receivership Entities, the Receiver's interest in a sale transaction and its financial situation were widely known among educators, educational institutions and investors. To date, the Receiver and/or those assisting him have discussed selling various parts of Argosy, South and AI with many different groups who expressed interest in the purchasing the Assets. The Receiver's business judgment is that no further marketing is required to produce interested purchasers.

- 12. On February 27, 2019, the USDE published a letter denying Argosy any further Title IV funding (the "**Denial Letter**"). As a result, the Receiver has been accepting offers on an expedited basis.
- 13. All interested parties were invited to submit bids. Buyer was the only party to step forward and submit a bid for WSCL, which included an agreement to enter into a teach-out agreement commencing August 2019, allowing for the opportunity for WSCL to continue and honor the students' wishes to complete their programs of study. The APA offers the only solution to providing the students an uninterrupted education. Buyer also seeks to close at the earliest possible time, will use its own institutional licensure, accreditation, and USDE approvals to take over the school and demonstrates the knowledge, background and experience for gaining Regulatory Approval quickly. As such, it is both the highest and best offer. A transaction to Buyer is consistent with good business judgment and the Receiver here asserts that Buyer is a bona fide, good faith purchaser. For all of these

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reasons, it is the Receiver's opinion that the sale of the assets to Buyer should be approved by this Court.

- 14. In order to sell the Assets as a continuing educational enterprise in good standing, the Receiver must complete its sale transaction immediately. The school cannot continue as an educational institution for even a short time without financial assistance, and there is no one to provide it. The school's financial situation is endangering its ability to maintain accreditation, and the USDE, WSCUC and the ABA are carefully and strictly monitoring the progress of this sale to ensure that the students are properly cared for. The accrediting agencies are prepared to take swift and appropriate action if the sale cannot be closed. Thus, time is of the essence, and the sale to Buyer must close at the earliest possible time.
- 15. The Receiver asserts that approval of the Sale Motion and consummation of the Sale to the Buyer at this time is in the best interests of WSCL, its creditors and its students. The Receiver further asserts that in his best business judgment, the sale transaction on the terms and conditions set forth in the APA, is in the best interest of students, creditors and the community. Sound business judgment includes, but is not limited to, the fact that (i) there is a risk of immediate and irreparable loss of value of the Assets if WSCL ceases to operate as an educational institution, (ii) its students will be unable to complete their programs of study, (iii) the consummation of the transaction contemplated under the APA presents the best opportunity to realize the value of the Assets to avoid further

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decline and devaluation thereof; (iv) the sale is at arm's length; and (v) the Receiver has exercised reasonable diligence and good faith judgment.

16. The consideration to be paid by the Buyer for the Assets constitutes adequate and fair value for the Assets and the terms and conditions of the APA are fair and reasonable.

#### LIENS AND ENCUMBRANCES

- 15. Liens reported against the Assets to be sold are as follows:
  - a. Non-consensual interests obtained by the United States

    Government pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3713, known as the

    "federal priority statute";
  - b. U.S. Bank National Association, as Collateral Agent under the Senior Secured Credit and Guaranty Agreement, dated as of October 17, 2017, by The Dream Center Foundation and the other parties thereto; collateral is all assets of the Debtor (DCEH), whether now owned or hereafter acquired;
  - c. U.S. Bank National Association, as Collateral Agent under the Senior Secured Credit and Guaranty Agreement, dated as of January 5, 2015, by Education Management II LLC and the other parties thereto; collateral is all assets of the Debtor (DCEH), whether now owned or hereafter acquired;
  - d. Great American Insurance Company; the collateral is all rights
    of the Debtors (DCEH and The Arts Institutes International,

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- LLC, Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC)
  growing out of bonds issued by Great American on behalf of
  Debtors and any of Debtors' subsidiaries and related entities
  (etc.);
- e. [Studio Enterprise Manager, LLC claims a lien and/or an interest on all of the assets in the Receivership Entities;
- f. Dream Center Argosy University of California LLC has a lien on "Contributed Receivables," which is accounts due from student Account Debtors at various Argosy University campuses; and
- g. Studio Enterprise Manager, LLC has a right of first refusal on Argosy and various other campuses.

#### LAW AND ARGUMENT

16. This Court has the authority to approve a sale of the Assets free and clear of Interests, and to transfer the Interests to the proceeds derived from the respective sales of the Assets. The Court's authority to impose and administer this receivership is derived from its inherent powers as a court of equity. See S.E.C. v. Forex Asset Mgmt., LLC, 242 F.3d 325, 331 (5th Cir. 2001); U.S. v. Durham, 86 F.3d 70, 72 (5th Cir. 1996); see also 28 U.S.C. § 3103(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 66 ("The practice in the administration of estate by receivers . . . shall be in accordance with the practice heretofore followed in the courts of the United States or as provided in rules promulgated by the district court."). A federal court exercises "broad powers

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and wide discretion" in crafting relief in an equitable receivership proceeding. See S.E.C. v. Basic Energy & Affiliated Res., Inc., 273 F.3d 657, 668 (6th Cir. 2001).

- 17. The goal of a receiver charged with liquidating assets is to obtain the best value for the estate available under the circumstances. Fleet Nat'l Bank v. H&D Entm't, Inc., 926 F. Supp. 226, 239-40 (D.C. Mass. 1996) (citing Jackson v. Smith, 254 U.S. 586 (1921)). The paramount goal in any proposed sale of property of the estate is to maximize the proceeds received by the estate. See, e.g., Four B. Corp. v. Food Barn Stores, Inc., 107 F.3d 558, 564-65 (8th Cir. 1997). Moreover, courts have recognized that a receiver's business judgment is entitled to significant deference when selecting the appropriate methods to achieve this goal. See, e.g., Golden Pac. Bancorp v. F.D.IC., 2002 WL 31875395 (S.D.N.Y. 2002); aff'd sub nom, Golden Pac. Bancorp. v. F.D.I.C., 375 F.3d 196 (2nd Cir. 2004) (recognizing receivers are afforded deference in corporate decision making); In re JFD Enter., Inc., 2000 WL 560189, \*5 (1st Cir. 2000) ("The trustee has ample discretion to administer the estate, including authority to conduct public or private sales of estate property. Courts have much discretion on whether to approve proposed sales, but the trustee's business judgment is subject to great judicial deference.") (internal citations omitted).
- 18. This Court's broad authority over a receivership estate includes the equitable power "to sell property free of liens, transferring the lien to the proceeds." Seaboard Natl. Bank v. Rogers Milk Prod. Co., 21 F.2d 414, 416 (2nd Cir. 1927); see also First Natl. Bank v. Shedd, 121 U.S. 74 (1887) (affirming the sale of railroad

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property deteriorating in value free and clear of liens); F.T.C. v. Trudeau, No. 03-C-3904 (N.D. Ill. May 27, 2014) (order approving sale of receivership assets free and clear of encumbrances, liabilities, and claims); S.E.C. v. Pearson, No. 14 C 3785 (N.D. Ill. June 9, 2014) (order approving sale liens, claims, encumbrances, and interests); Quilling v. Trade Partners, Inc., 2007 WL 296211 (W.D. Mich. 2007) (approving receiver's sale of property free and clear of all liens and encumbrances); Stoder v. Am. Crushing 18 & Recycling, LLC, 2006 WL 438615 (Conn. Super. Ct. 2006) (granting receiver's motion to sell property free and clear of liens); Parks v. Carlisle Clay Prod. Co. of Carlisle, 276 N.W. 591 (Iowa 1937) (allowing a receiver to sell the assets of the corporation free of liens and encumbrances).

19. Under Local Rule 66.1, the Court is to administer receivership estates "similar to that in bankruptcy cases." It is a bedrock principle of bankruptcy law that bankruptcy courts (which are courts of equity like courts administering receivership estates) may authorize the sale of estate assets free and clear of all liens and interests. See 11 U.S.C. § 363.

#### **OBJECTIONS**

By a separate Motion filed contemporaneously herewith, and for the reasons stated herein, the Receiver is requesting the shortening of time for the filing of objections to the sale, and for an expedited hearing date.

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NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

20. The Receiver will notify all interested parties of the sale of the Assets.

Specifically, the Receiver will notify the all parties to the lawsuit, the federal, state

and local taxing authorities, all secured lenders, all unsecured creditors, the

Attorneys General of the States of California and Ohio, all educational accrediting

agencies, and other parties that the Receiver believes would have an interest in the

sale or who have requested that they be notified of any sale. Upon completion of the

notice to interested parties, the undersigned will file an appropriate Certificate of

Service with this Court.

WHEREFORE the Receiver moves this honorable Court for an order

authorizing and approving the sale of Assets free and clear of all the Interests and

for the transfer of the Interests of the Claimants to the proceeds of the Sale to be

paid by further order of this Court as their interests appear under the law, and for

such other and further relief as is just.

Date: July 24, 2019

WHITMER & EHRMAN LLC

/s/Mary K. Whitmer

Mary K. Whitmer (0018213)

James W. Ehrman (0011006)

2344 Canal Rd., Suite 401

Cleveland, OH 44113

Telephone: (216) 771-5056

Facsimile: (216) 771-2450

Email: mkw@weadvocate.net

iwe@weadvocate.net

Attorneys for the Receiver

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#### **EXHIBIT A**

#### ASSET PURCHASE AGREEMENT

This ASSET PURCHASE AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of July 23, 2019 ("Effective Date"), by and between Westcliff Management Group, a California corporation, d/b/a Westcliff University ("Buyer"), and Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC, a California limited liability company, by and through Mark E. Dottore, Receiver (hereinafter referred to "Seller" or "Argosy"), appointed by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division (the "Court"). Buyer and Seller may be referred to in this Agreement individually as a "Party" and collectively, as the "Parties."

#### RECITALS:

- A. Seller operates a law school under the name Western State College of Law at Argosy University, located at 1 Banting Drive, Irvine, CA 92618 ("Premises") (OPE ID 021799-37) (the "School").
- B. Pursuant to that certain Order Appointing Receiver (the "Appointment Order") entered on January 18, 2019, by the Court in Case No. 1:19-cv-145, Mark E. Dottore ("Receiver") was appointed receiver of Seller and its direct subsidiaries.
- C. The indirect owner of all of the interests in Argosy is The Dream Center Foundation, A California Nonprofit Corporation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- D. Buyer desires to purchase from Seller, and Seller desires to sell to Buyer, substantially all of the assets relating to the School, on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement (the "Transaction").

In consideration for the representations and mutual covenants and agreements set forth in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

## ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS

The terms set forth in this ARTICLE I have the following meanings when used in this Agreement:

"ABA" means the American Bar Association.

"Actions" or "Proceedings" means any claim, action, cause of action, suit, demand, inquiry, proceeding, audit, hearing, subpoena, investigation, charge, notice of violation, citation, summons, litigation or suit (of any nature, whether civil, criminal, administrative, regulatory, judicial or investigative, whether formal or informal, whether public or private, whether at law or in equity) commenced, brought, conducted or heard by or before, or otherwise involving, any

Governmental Authority or Educational Agency, or any other arbitration, mediation or similar proceeding.

"Affiliate" means, with respect to any Person, any other Person who directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, such Person. The term "control," including the terms "controlled by" and "under common control with," means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a Person, whether through the ownership of at least fifty percent (50%) of the voting securities, by contract or otherwise, including the ability to elect a majority of the members of the governing board of such Person.

"Applicable Law" means any law, statute, regulation, rule, ordinance, order, judgment, decision, or decree by any Governmental Authority applicable to Seller, Buyer, Argosy, the Purchased Assets or the School.

"Argosy Curriculum" means all data on the Brightspace learning environment platform which is owned or licensed by Seller other than the School Curriculum and used in any educational programs (including all concentrations or subfields of study within each program) of Seller other than for the School, including all such data used in connection with the education programs set forth on Schedule II attached hereto.

"Assumed Contracts" means all enrollment agreements and those contracts listed on Schedule I attached hereto.

"Assumed Liabilities" means all liabilities of the School arising or to be performed after the Closing under the Assumed Contracts (but not related to matters, facts, circumstances or liabilities existing at, prior to or as a consequence of (i) Closing or (ii) the Teach-out Commencement Period).

"Bill of Sale" means that bill of sale and assignment to be executed by Seller and Buyer, in the form attached as Exhibit A.

"BPPE" means the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.

"Business Records" means all books, records, systems and documents of Seller relating solely to the Purchased Assets, Assumed Liabilities or the operation of the School prior the Closing, including all financial and accounting records, human resources, student and tuition records, agreements, lists (including current student and prospective student lists), electronic systems and related information.

"Closing" has the meaning given that term in Section 6.1 of this Agreement.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

"Confidential Information" means any information concerning the School that is not already generally available to the public.

"DEAC" means Distance Education Accrediting Commission.

"Educational Agency" means any entity or organization, whether governmental, government chartered, private, or quasi-private, that engages in granting or withholding Educational Approvals for, or administers Student Financial Assistance to or for students of, or otherwise regulates private post-secondary schools in accordance with standards relating to the performance, operation, financial condition, or academic standards of such schools, including, without limitation, BPPE, WSCUC, ABA, DEAC, the USDE, SEVP and any student loan guaranty agency.

"Educational Approval" means any license, permit, authorization, program participation agreement, certification, accreditation, or similar approval issued or required to be issued by an Educational Agency to the School subject to the oversight of such Educational Agency, including any such approval (a) for the School to operate and offer its educational programs in all jurisdictions in which it operates, including all jurisdictions where it offers educational programs online or through other distance education delivery methods, (b) for the School to participate in any program of Student Financial Assistance, and (c) for graduates of the School to be eligible to obtain certification or licensure, or take any examinations to obtain such certification or licensure, for any program for which the School has represented to students or prospective students that such program will enable students to obtain such certification or licensure, but excluding any license, permit, authorization, certification or similar approval issued to the School or any employee of the School on an individual basis.

"Educational Consent" means any approval, authorization or consent by any Educational Agency, or any notification to be made by the parties to an Educational Agency, with regard to the Transaction, whether pre-Closing or post-Closing, which is necessary under Applicable Law in order to obtain an Educational Approval or to maintain or continue any Educational Approval presently held by the School or Buyer, as set forth in Exhibit D.

"Educational Law" means any applicable federal, state, municipal, foreign or other law, regulation, order or accrediting body standard, policy or procedure, including without limitation the provisions of Title IV and any regulations implementing or relating thereto, issued or administered by, or related to, any Educational Agency or any program of Student Financial Assistance.

#### "Excluded Assets" means:

- (1) all bank accounts of Seller or the School;
- (2) all rights to receive mail and other communications addressed to Seller relating to any of the Excluded Assets or Excluded Liabilities;
- (3) all company records of Seller, including minute books and Organizational Documents;
- (4) all personnel and other records Argosy is required by Applicable Law to retain;
- (5) all contracts and agreements, whether written or oral, to which Seller is a party other than the Assumed Contracts;

- (6) any capital stock or other equity or ownership interests of any Person held by Argosy;
  - (7) the School's OPE ID 021799-37; and
- (8) any assets of Seller not used or held for use by the School, other than a copy of the Argosy Curriculum.

"Excluded Liabilities" has the meaning given that term in Section 2.2.

"Governmental Authority" shall mean any Educational Agency or any federal, state or local government or any court, administrative agency or commission, tribunal, arbitrator, authority, official, or agency, domestic or foreign.

"HEA" means the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and the regulations promulgated under it.

"Intellectual Property" means all (i) trademarks, service marks, trade dress, trade names, school names (past and present), brands, slogans, logos, Internet domain names, websites, social media accounts, corporate names, translations, adaptations, derivations, and combinations of the above, and all applications, registrations, and renewals in connection therewith, together with all of the goodwill associated with the foregoing, (ii) copyrights and works of authorship (whether or not copyrightable), and moral rights, and all applications, registrations, and renewals, (iii) computer software (including source code and object code, data, databases and documentation thereof), (iv) trade secrets and other confidential or proprietary information, know-how, processes, methods and techniques, research and development information, industry analyses, drawings, specifications, designs, plans, proposals, industrial models, technical data, financial and accounting data, business and marketing plans and customer and supplier lists and related information, and (v) copies and tangible embodiments of any of the above, in whatever form or medium, including, but not limited to, such Intellectual Property set forth on Schedule III attached hereto.

"Intellectual Property Assignment and Assumption Agreement" means that intellectual property assignment and assumption agreement to be executed by Buyer and Seller, in the form attached as Exhibit B.

"IT Assets" means software, systems, servers, computers, hardware, firmware, middleware, networks, data communications lines, routers, hubs, switches and all other information technology equipment, and all associated documentation owned by Seller and located solely at the School, other than any such devises, hardware, technology, communications systems, network infrastructure and/or computer software that are located, maintained on or part of the Shared IT Platform.

"Knowledge of Seller" means the knowledge of Receiver, Allen Easley and Stacy Hang after reasonable inquiry and diligence with respect to the matters in question.

"Liability" means any liability (whether known or unknown, asserted or unasserted, absolute or contingent, accrued or unaccrued, and whether due, or to become due), including any liability for Taxes.

"License" means any permit, license, contract, agreement, Educational Approval, authorization or other obligation issued by any Governmental Authority related to the School to which Argosy is a party or by which Argosy, the School or the Purchased Assets are bound.

"Lien" has the meaning given that term in <u>Section 3.3</u> of this Agreement.

"Material Adverse Effect" means a material adverse effect on (i) the School or Purchased Assets, or (ii) the ability of Seller to consummate the Transaction or to perform its material obligations under this Agreement.

"Ordinary Course of Business" means the ordinary course of the operation of the School consistent with past custom and practice.

"Organizational Documents" means any charter, certificate of formation, articles of organization, articles of incorporation, certificate of incorporation, declaration of partnership, articles of association, code of regulations, bylaws, operating agreement, limited liability company agreement, partnership agreement or similar formation or governing documents and instruments.

"Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, unincorporated association or any other entity or organization.

"Post-Closing Educational Consents" means those Educational Consents that, pursuant to applicable Educational Law, must be effectuated or obtained after the Closing, as identified as Post-Closing Educational Consents on Exhibit D.

"Pre-Closing Educational Consents" means those Educational Consents that, pursuant to applicable Educational Law, must be effectuated or obtained prior to the Closing, as identified as Pre-Closing Educational Consents on Exhibit D.

"Purchased Assets" means (i) all right, title and interest in all tangible and intangible assets, other than Excluded Assets, of Argosy used or held solely for use by the School, including, without limitation, inventory, supplies, equipment, tangible personal property, fixed assets, Business Records (excluding Excluded Assets), School Curriculum, work-product, Assumed Contracts, fixtures, leasehold improvements, equipment, prepaid expenses, licenses, advertising material, insurance proceeds, permits, Licenses, goodwill, the use of all names under which Argosy does or has done business related to the School, IT Assets, all Argosy's Intellectual Property used or held for use by the School wherever located and existing as of Closing, and (ii) a copy of the Argosy Curriculum.

"Real Property" means all parcels and tracts of land, together with all buildings, structures, fixtures and improvements located thereon (including those under construction), and all privileges, rights, easements, hereditaments and appurtenances belonging to or for the benefit of such land, including all easements appurtenant to and for the benefit of such land, and all

rights existing in and to any streets, alleys, passages and other rights-of-way included thereon or adjacent thereto (before or after vacation thereof) and vaults beneath any such streets.

"Sale Order" means the final, non-appealable order, substantially in the form attached hereto as <a href="Exhibit C">Exhibit C</a>, from the Court (i) authorizing Seller to sell, and confirming the sale of, the Purchased Assets to Buyer, free and clear of all Liens and Liabilities other than Assumed Liabilities, on the terms and conditions of this Agreement (as may from time to time be amended as provided herein), (b) confirming that the agreements entered into in November 2015 between Education Management Corporation and 39 state attorneys general and the District of Columbia do not apply to the School or the Purchased Assets following Closing, (c) deeming Buyer to have purchased the Purchased Assets in good faith, (d) authorizing and directing Seller to execute, upon request by Buyer in good faith, one or more assignments in form, substance, and number reasonably acceptable to Seller and Buyer, evidencing the conveyance of the Purchased Assets to Buyer, and (e) including a specific injunction prohibiting all creditors of Seller from asserting against Buyer any claims arising from debts owed by Seller, including successor liability claims, and that all such obligations shall remain Seller's liability.

"School Curriculum" means all curricula owned or licensed by Seller and used or held for use in any educational programs of the School, including, but not limited to, the Juris Doctor and Master of Law in Compliance, in the form of computer programs or software, slide shows, texts, films, web site content, audio, videos or any other form or media, including the following items: (1) course objectives, (2) lesson plans, (3) exams, (4) class materials (including any interactive or computer-aided materials), (5) faculty notes, (6) course handouts, (7) diagrams, (8) syllabi, (9) sample externship and placement materials, (10) clinical checklists, (11) course and faculty evaluation materials, (12) policy and procedure manuals, and (13) other related materials. The School Curriculum includes all copyrights, copyright applications, copyright registrations and trade secrets to the extent incorporated in the above-listed items and to the extent owned or licensed by Argosy and used in any educational programs of the School, including, but not limited to, the Juris Doctor and Master of Law in Compliance.

"SEVP" means the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Student Exchange Visitor Program.

"Shared IT Platform" means any technology whether it be hardware, software or otherwise owned by Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC ("DCEH") and currently subleased to Studio Enterprise Manager, LLC ("Studio") pursuant to a sublease agreement approved by the Court, which stores and maintains data, including, without limitation student and financial data, relevant to and for operation of various universities, including the School.

"Straddle Period" means a Tax period starting prior to the Closing Date and ending on or after the Closing Date.

"Student Financial Assistance" means any form of financial assistance, grants or loans provided to any student pursuant to (i) the Title IV Programs and any other program authorized by the HEA and administered by the USDE, (ii) any educational assistance program for military service members and families administered by the U.S. Department of Defense and the military service branches thereof, (iii) any educational assistance program for veterans administered by

the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the designated state approving agencies for the supervision of such programs, and (iv) any state-sponsored postsecondary grant or loan program.

"Tax Return" means any return, declaration, report, claim for refund, or information return or statement relating to Taxes, including any schedule or attachment, and including any amendment thereof, filed with or submitted to, or required to be filed with or submitted to, any Governmental Authority in connection with the determination, assessment, collection or payment of any Taxes.

"Tax" or "Taxes" means any federal, state, local, or foreign income, gross receipts, license, payroll, employment, excise, severance, stamp, occupation, premium, windfall profits, environmental customs, duties, franchise, profits, withholding, social security (or similar), unemployment, disability, real property, personal property, sales, use, capital gain, transfer, registration, transportation, value added, alternative or add-on minimum, estimated, or other tax of any kind whatsoever, including any interest, penalty, or addition to the Tax, whether disputed or not and including any obligations to indemnify or otherwise assume or succeed to the Tax liability of any other Person.

"Teach-Out Agreement" means that certain Agreement for Educational Services signed on June 6, 2019, by and between Buyer and Seller, pursuant to which Buyer agreed to teach-out the current students of the School so that currently-enrolled students of the School would be able to complete their programs of study in accordance with policies respecting good academic standing and satisfactory academic progress as set forth more fully therein.

"Teach-Out Commencement Period" means that period commencing on the "Effective Date" as such term is defined in the Teach-Out Agreement and ending at Closing.

"Title IV Program" means any program of student financial assistance administered pursuant to Chapter 28, Subchapter IV of the HEA, and any amendments or successor statutes to it.

"Transition Services Agreement" has the meaning set forth in Section 5.11.

"USDE" means the United States Department of Education.

"USDE Letter of Credit" means a letter of credit in favor of the USDE to establish the School's financial responsibility under or satisfy the requirements of 34 C.F.R. Section 668 Subparts B or L, or for any other reason, whether posted by Argosy or Buyer.

"USDE Pre-Acquisition Review Notice" means the written notice from the USDE following the USDE's full review of pre-acquisition review application regarding the Transaction, which (i) shall indicate that the USDE is not aware of any material adverse conditions that might preclude final approval of the Transaction; (ii) shall not indicate any material impediment to the uninterrupted continuation of Title IV Program funds for the School under Buyer's institutional accreditation; and (iii) indicate that, following the Closing, the USDE will add the School to Buyer's PPA and OPE ID upon terms that shall not be materially adverse to Buyer; provided, however, that the following shall be deemed to be materially adverse to Buyer or a material impediment: (a) any requirement for the posting a USDE Letter of Credit by

the School or Buyer, (b) restrictions on the School's ability to add new educational programs or locations, (c) restrictions or caps on enrollments at the School, (d) imposition on or assumption by Buyer of any trailing Title IV Liabilities of the School, (e) imposition on or assumption by Buyer or the School of any Liabilities for closed school discharges granted to students of the School, or (f) imposition on or assumption by Buyer or the School of any Liabilities for group or individual borrower defense claims.

"WSCUC" means the WASC Senior College and University Commission.

# ARTICLE II PURCHASE AND SALE OF ASSETS AND ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITIES.

- 2.1 <u>Purchase and Sale</u>. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, at the Closing, Seller shall sell and deliver to Buyer, and Buyer shall purchase from Seller, free and clear of all Liens, the Purchased Assets, in exchange for the Purchase Price.
- 2.2 <u>Liabilities</u>. Except for the Assumed Liabilities, Buyer shall not assume, and shall have no liability for, any Liabilities, obligations or commitments of Seller, Argosy or the School of any kind, character or description, whether accrued, absolute, contingent or otherwise, it being understood that Buyer is expressly disclaiming any express or implied assumption of any Liabilities other than the Assumed Liabilities (collectively, the "Excluded Liabilities"), each of which shall be retained and timely discharged by Seller pursuant to the Sale Order. Regardless of whether any other Liabilities of Seller, Argosy or the School may be disclosed to Buyer or whether Buyer may have actual knowledge of the same, Buyer shall not assume, or in any way be liable or responsible for the Excluded Liabilities.
- 2.3 <u>Purchase Price</u>. As consideration for the sale of the Purchased Assets, Buyer shall pay to Seller a purchase price of One Dollars (\$1.00) (the "Purchase Price"), payable in cash by wire transfer or other immediately available funds at Closing.

## ARTICLE III REPRESENTATIONS OF SELLER

In order to induce Buyer to enter into this Agreement, Seller represents and warrants as follows:

### 3.1 Existence and Good Standing of Argosy.

- (a) Argosy is a limited liability company validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of California and is qualified to conduct business in each jurisdiction where the properties owned, leased or operated, or the business conducted by it require qualification.
- (b) Argosy has full power and authority to conduct its business as it is now being conducted, to own or use the properties and assets that it purports to own or use, and to perform all its obligations under the contracts to which it is party.

- 3.2 <u>Authorization and Binding Obligation</u>. Pursuant to the Appointment Order, Seller has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and each other agreement, document, instrument and/or certificate contemplated by this Agreement to be executed or delivered by Seller and to consummate the Transaction and perform his obligations hereunder and thereunder, subject to the entry of the Sale Order.
- 3.3 <u>Title to Purchased Assets.</u> Seller has good and marketable title to, or a valid leasehold interest in, all of the Purchased Assets, and subject to the entry of the Sale Order, Seller can deliver good and marketable title to, or a valid leasehold interest in, all of the Purchased Assets, free and clear of all encumbrances, liens, claims, charges, mortgages, pledges or security interests of any kind or nature (collectively, "Liens"). Pursuant to the entry of the Sale Order, none of the Purchased Assets are, nor shall be, subject to Liens. The Purchased Assets shall be conveyed to the Buyer free and clear of Liens. The Purchased Assets constitute all properties and assets necessary to operate the School as currently operated.
- 3.4 <u>Real Property</u>. Seller does not own any Real Property used by or held for use by the School.
- 3.5 <u>Broker's or Finder's Fees</u>. No Person retained by Seller or Argosy is or will be entitled to any broker's or finder's fee or any similar commission or fee in connection with the Transaction.
- 3.6 <u>Argosy Curriculum</u>. All of the Argosy Curriculum is located on the Brightspace learning environment platform.
- 3.7 <u>Disclosure</u>. No representation or warranty made by Seller in this Agreement contains any untrue statements of a material fact or omits to state a fact necessary to make the statements of fact contained herein not misleading.

# ARTICLE IV REPRESENTATIONS OF BUYER

Buyer represents and warrants to Seller as follows:

- 4.1 <u>Existence and Good Standing of Buyer</u>. Buyer is a corporation validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of California and has all requisite organizational power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to carry on its business as now being conducted.
- 4.2 <u>Authorization and Binding Obligation</u>. Buyer has full corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and each other agreement, document, instrument and/or certificate contemplated by this Agreement to be executed or delivered by Buyer and to consummate the Transaction and perform its obligations hereunder and thereunder.
- 4.3 <u>AS IS, WHERE IS</u>. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY SET FORTH HEREIN, ALL PURCHASED ASSETS ARE BEING CONVEYED HEREUNDER ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS AND SELLER MAKES NO WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASED ASSETS, INCLUDING

WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ALL OF SUCH EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES AND REPRESENTATIONS, EXCEPT THOSE STATED HEREIN, ARE HEREBY EXCLUDED. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL SURVIVE THE CLOSING OR ANY TERMINATION HEREOF.

# ARTICLE V COVENANTS

- Out Commencement Period, Seller shall not, without the prior written consent of Buyer, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed, engage in any practice, take any action, or enter into any transaction with respect to the School outside the Ordinary Course of Business other than such actions taken in furtherance of the Transaction. Until Closing, Seller and Buyer will use reasonable best efforts to take all action and do all things necessary in order to consummate and make effective the Transaction contemplated by this Agreement, including, without limitation, compliance with and observance of the terms and conditions set forth in this <u>ARTICLE V</u>. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Seller shall not sell, lease, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of any Purchased Asset, mortgage, pledge or impose any Lien upon any Purchased Asset or enter into, modify or terminate any Assumed Contract.
- 5.2 From the Effective Date through and including the Teach-out Commencement Period, Seller will permit representatives of Buyer (including legal counsel and accountants) to have full access at all reasonable times, and in a manner so as not to interfere with the normal business operations of the School, to all premises, properties, personnel, books, records (including tax records), contracts, and documents of or pertaining to the School, and Seller shall cause Argosy and its Representatives to cooperate fully with requests from Buyer. Further, no later than five (5) business days after entry of the Sale Order, Seller shall have electronically copied and provided to Buyer, in a manner acceptable to Seller and Buyer, all Business Records in the possession of the Receiver or on the Shared IT Platform including, without limitation student and financial data set forth on the CampusVue, Banner, Lawson and Kronos Software, relevant to the operation of the School. Prior to Closing, Buyer and Buyer's representatives shall hold all such Confidential Information in confidence and shall not disclose any such Confidential Information to any third parties other than Governmental Authorities and Educational Agencies without the express written consent of Seller, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld. Should the Transaction not close, any and all Confidential Information provided to Buyer in any format pursuant to this Agreement, whether set forth in this Section or in any other part of this Agreement, shall be returned to Seller following the end of the term of the Teach-Out Agreement; provided, however, that Buyer and its representatives may retain such Confidential Information: (a) stored in standard archival or computer back-up systems or retained pursuant to such Person's normal document retention practices, for litigation and regulatory purposes or to the extent required by law, and/or (b) pursuant to their professional accounting, legal and compliance policies or bona fide document retention policy requirements.
- 5.3 <u>Exclusivity</u>. From the Effective Date through and including the Closing, neither Seller nor Argosy shall (i) solicit, initiate or encourage the submission of any proposal or offer from, or enter into any agreement with, any Person relating to the acquisition of any equity

interests or other voting securities of, or any portion of the Purchased Assets (including any acquisition structured as a merger, consolidation, or share exchange) or (ii) participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding, furnish any information with respect to, assist or participate in, or facilitate in any other manner any effort or attempt by any Person to do or seek any of the above.

Seller shall use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain the consents, Licenses, Educational Approvals, Educational Consents and other consents necessary for the performance of their obligations under this Agreement, including obtaining the consents, approvals, orders and authorizations of, and registrations or filings with, any Governmental Authority, Educational Agency or other Person, set forth on <a href="Exhibit D">Exhibit D</a> (the "Required Consents"), which, with regards to Required Consents from any Educational Agency, are identified as Pre-Closing Educational Consents and Post-Closing Educational Consents. Buyer with the cooperation of Seller shall use commercially reasonable efforts to secure the termination of any waiting periods under any Applicable Law and to obtain the approval of any Educational Agency or other Governmental Authority for the consummation of the Transaction.

Buyer shall be permitted to communicate and meet with any Educational Agency or other Governmental Authority related to the School. Each of Buyer and Seller shall keep each other informed of their written and oral communications with any Educational Agency or other Governmental Authority as promptly as practicable, including providing copies of any written communications delivered to or received from any Educational Agency or other Governmental Authority and allowing the other Parties the opportunity to take part in any meeting or substantive oral communication that is arranged or that otherwise arises with any Education Agency to discuss any Required Consent.

Seller shall cooperate with Buyer in its efforts to obtain the AG Waiver (as defined in Section 6.2(k)).

- 5.5 <u>Further Assurances</u>. To the extent not otherwise required by <u>Section 5.4</u>, each of the Parties agrees to use commercially reasonable efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all action and to do, or cause to be done, and to assist and cooperate with the other Parties in doing, all things necessary, proper, or advisable to consummate the Transaction including, without limitation the obtaining of all post-Closing waivers, consents, and approvals from any Governmental Authority and the making of all post-Closing registrations and filings (including, but not limited to, filings with any Governmental Authority) and the taking of all reasonable steps to obtain any approval or waiver from, or to avoid any Action or Proceeding by, any Governmental Authority.
- 5.6 <u>Confidentiality</u>. From and after the Closing, Seller shall and shall cause its employees, representatives, consultants, agents, or advisors (collectively, "Representatives") to treat and hold as confidential all Confidential Information, refrain from using any Confidential Information except in connection with this Agreement, and deliver promptly to Buyer or destroy, at the request and option of Buyer, all tangible embodiments (and all copies) of any Confidential Information which are in Seller's possession.

5.7 Name Change. On the Closing Date, or immediately thereafter, Seller shall revoke any filing that Seller has made prior to the Closing with any Governmental Authority relating to the use of the name "Western State College of Law" or any like names or combinations of words likely to be confused with any of such names. Immediately following the Closing Date, Seller shall, at its expense, prepare and file with the appropriate Governmental Authority appropriate documents so as to effectuate the same and shall promptly deliver evidence of such name changes or other filings to Buyer.

#### 5.8 Tax Matters.

- (a) All documentary, sales, use, transfer, stamp, registration or other Taxes and fees incurred or assessed in connection with the sale of the Purchased Assets as contemplated by this Agreement shall be timely paid by Seller when due and Seller shall, at its own expense, timely file all necessary Tax Returns with respect to such Taxes.
- (b) Each Party shall be responsible for filing their respective Tax Returns relating to the Purchased Assets and the School for the Straddle Period.
- (c) Seller shall be responsible and liable for the payment of all filing and recording fees and transfer and sales taxes associated with the sale and purchase of the Purchased Assets described in this Agreement.

# 5.9 Employee Matters.

- (a) Seller shall pay those employees identified and set forth on Schedule 5.9 for the period July 1, 2019 though and including July 18, 2019, including the portion of all benefits which has been accrued on behalf of such employees (or is attributable to any unreimbursed reasonable business expenses properly incurred by those employees) as of July 18, 2019, and Buyer shall assume no liability for them.
- (b) On or prior to the Effective Date, Seller shall also notify these employees that their employment is terminated effective July 18, 2019. Seller shall notify all other employees set forth on Schedule 5.9, which are employees that Buyer desires to hire on August 1, 2019, that their employment will Seller will terminate on July 31, 2019. Seller agrees to make no representations to its employees regarding the prospect of employment with Buyer, as Buyer at all times reserves its right to make its own hiring decisions.
- (c) As contemplated by the USDE letter to Buyer dated June 25, 2019, Buyer acknowledges and agrees to transfer funds on July 23, 2019 and July 30, 2019 in amounts provided by Seller to Buyer at least two (2) business days prior to such funding dates, in the total amount not to exceed \$192,344.68, to Minute Men HR for the account of Seller's federal ID. This transfer is for the sole purpose of aiding Seller in meeting the Seller's payroll obligations to the School employees who accept Buyer's offer of employment (the "Teach-Out Payrolls"). Specifically, the Teach Out Payrolls include accrued wages by the School employees during the 31 days between July 1, 2019 and July 31, 2019, inclusive. No portion of this transfer shall be used toward Seller's wage-payment or payroll obligations to employees who opt to not accept Buyer's offer of employment. Seller agrees to cause such transferred funds to be used solely for the purpose of covering the Teach Out Payrolls,

including but not limited to payroll taxes, etc. owed to Seller's employees who accept Buyer's offer of employment. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the transferred funds are not to be used in connection with any other obligations of the Seller.

- (d) The parties acknowledge and agree that the transfer of funds referenced in this <u>Section 5.9</u> in no way creates, or joins Buyer to, an employment relationship with any of Seller's employees. Moreover, unless and until Buyer hires any School employee, and then only with respect to such employee(s), there is no employment relationship created between Buyer and any School employee.
- (e) Seller, in meeting its payroll obligations to School employees, remains solely responsible for compliance with all applicable state and federal laws with respect to such employees, including but not limited to, timely and legally compliant payment of payroll and the portion of all benefits which has been accrued on behalf of such employees (or is attributable to any unreimbursed reasonable business expenses properly incurred by those employees) prior to Closing, and Buyer shall assume no liability for them.
- (f) The parties further agree that Buyer shall be entitled to receive and retain all funds from the USDE pursuant to the USDE's letter to Buyer dated June 25, 2019.
- (g) With respect to tenured faculty, Seller shall follow the termination procedures based on "financial exigency" set forth in the Schools Faculty Handbook. No portion of the assets of any benefit plan, fund, program or arrangement, written or unwritten, sponsored or maintained by Seller or Argosy (and no amount attributable to any such benefit plan, fund, program or arrangement) shall be transferred to Buyer, and Buyer shall not be required to continue any such benefit plan, fund, program or arrangement.

#### 5.10 Notice of Certain Events.

- (a) From the date of this Agreement through and including the Teach-out Commencement Period, Seller shall give Buyer prompt written notice of the occurrence of any of the following: (i) a loss, taking, condemnation, damage or destruction of or to any of the Purchased Assets in its possession, custody, control or right of control involving in excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000); or (ii) any material breach, default, claimed breach, claimed default or termination of any Assumed Contract. From the date of this Agreement through and including the Closing, Seller and Buyer shall promptly notify the other in writing upon becoming aware that it has breached, will breach or could reasonably be expected to breach its representations, warranties or covenants under this Agreement. No disclosure by the breaching party pursuant to this Section 5.10(a), however, shall be deemed to amend or supplement any Schedule or to prevent or cure any misrepresentation, breach of warranty or breach of covenant, unless non-breaching party shall otherwise agree in writing.
- (b) Seller and Buyer shall promptly notify the other in writing upon becoming aware of any order or decree or any complaint praying for an order or decree restraining, enjoining or challenging the consummation of this Agreement or the Transaction, or upon receiving any notice from any Governmental Authority or Educational Agency of its intention to institute an Action to restrain or enjoin the consummation of this Agreement or

the Transaction. Seller and Buyer will each use commercially reasonable efforts to contest, defend and resolve any such Action or injunction so as to permit the prompt consummation of the Transaction.

- 5.11 <u>Transition Services</u>. Buyer acknowledges that if shared IT services or any other kind of transition services (collectively, the "Services") previously provided by DCEH are needed by Buyer, in its sole discretion, to be performed by Studio prior to or after Closing, Buyer shall use commercially reasonable efforts to negotiate and enter into a transition services and license agreement (the "Transition Services Agreement") with Studio for said Services. To the extent that the Buyer does not require any Services from Studio, in Buyer's sole discretion, Buyer shall not be obligated in any way to negotiate or enter into a Transition Services Agreement with Studio.
- 5.12 <u>Certain Notices</u>. From the Effective Date through and including the Closing, Seller shall notify, as is required by Applicable Law, all Persons entitled to notice of all motions, notices and orders required to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including the Sale Order, as modified by orders in respect of notice which may be issued at any time and from time to time by the Court.
- 5.13 Operation of the School during the Teach-Out Commencement Period. During the Teach-Out Commencement Period, Buyer shall operate the School in accordance with the Teach-Out Agreement.

# ARTICLE VI CLOSING

- 6.1 <u>Closing</u>. The consummation of the Transaction (the "Closing") shall occur on the fifth business day after all conditions to Closing have been fulfilled or waived (the "Closing Date"). The Closing shall be conducted electronically via email, facsimile transfer or other similar means of communication and shall be deemed to have taken place at the offices of Seller's counsel, McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman CO., LPA, at 101 W. Prospect Avenue, Suite 1800, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 and the Transaction shall be effective as of 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time on the Closing Date. The performance of all of the obligations and actions required of the Parties at the Closing shall be deemed to have occurred simultaneously, regardless of the order in which such performance actually occurs.
- 6.2 <u>Buyer's Conditions to Closing.</u> The obligation of Buyer to consummate the Transaction is subject to the satisfaction (or waiver) as of the Closing of the following conditions:
  - (a) the representations and warranties contained in ARTICLE III shall be true and correct as of the date hereof and as of the Closing Date with the same effect as if set forth on and as of such date, except where the failure of such representation or warranty to be true and correct is a result of any breach of the Teach-Out Agreement by Buyer from the Teach-Out Commencement Period forward;

- (b) Seller shall have performed and complied in all material respects with all agreements, obligations and covenants required to be performed or complied with by it on or prior to the Closing Date;
- (c) since the Effective Date and during the Teach-Out Commencement Period, the School shall have maintained ABA approval and authorization to operate except where such approval or authorization is required by Law to be maintained by Buyer after the Teach-Out Commencement Period and until Closing;
- (d) since the Effective Date, there shall have been no, and shall be no, Actions or Proceedings ongoing, pending or threatened against the School or Seller with respect solely to the School other than as set forth on Schedule 6.2(d);
- (e) since the Effective Date, there shall have been no, and shall be no, injunctions, Actions or Proceedings ongoing, pending or threatened enjoining or preventing the consummation of the Transaction unless such Action or proceeding is as a result of a breach of the Teach-Out Agreement by Buyer from the Teach-Out Commencement Period forward;
- (f) since the Effective Date, no fact, circumstance, development or event shall have occurred that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, except where such Material Adverse Effect is a result of any breach of the Teach-Out Agreement by Buyer from the Teach-Out Commencement Period forward and except those set forth in Schedule 6.2(d);
- (g) Buyer shall not have received any written notice before the Closing from the USDE stating that, as a condition of the addition of the School to Buyer's PPA following the Closing, any owner or Person exercising substantial control (as such term is defined in 34 C.F.R. § 668.174(b)) of the School shall be required to provide a personal guaranty or assume joint and several liability for any outstanding or future Title IV Program liabilities of the School;
- (h) no law or regulation shall have been enacted prohibiting or otherwise interfering, in any material respect, with Buyer's right to own the Purchased Assets or operate the School;
- (i) all required third party consents, as determined necessary by the Court, shall have been obtained, on terms reasonably satisfactory to Buyer, and copies thereof shall have been delivered to Buyer;
- (j) the Court shall have issued the Sale Order, a copy of which shall have been delivered to Buyer and sufficient time shall have elapsed so that such Sale Order shall not be subject to further appeal or stay, and no appeal or request for stay or other restriction on enforcement of the Sale Order is pending;
- (k) Buyer shall have received a written waiver of objections to the sale of the Purchased Assets from the Attorney General of the State of California Charitable Trusts

Section pursuant to California Corporations Code Section 5913 and California Code of Regulations, Title 11, Division 1, Chapter 15, § 999.2 (the "AG Waiver").

- (l) each of the Required Consents required to be obtained prior to Closing, shall have been made and obtained, and copies of the Required Consents shall have been delivered to Buyer, including, but not limited to, approval from WSCUC, approval from BPPE, approval from the ABA, and receipt of the USDE Pre-Acquisition Review Notice;
- (m) the Teach-Out Agreement shall be in full force and effect unless terminated due to the breach of the Teach-Out Agreement by Buyer;
- (n) Buyer shall have received a perpetual, non-exclusive, fully assignable, with rights to sublicense, license to the Argosy Curriculum pursuant to a license agreement under which no royalty or license fee shall be due by Buyer to the licensor (the "<u>License Agreement</u>"), in the form attached as Exhibit E;
- (o) Buyer shall have received from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration a Certificate of Sales Tax Clearance for the School and the Purchased Assets; and
- (p) at the Closing, Seller shall have delivered to Buyer all of the following documents:
  - (i) the Bill of Sale, duly executed by Seller;
  - (ii) the Intellectual Property Assignment and Assumption Agreement, duly executed by Seller;
    - (iii) the License Agreement, duly executed by Seller; and
- (iv) such other documents relating to the Transaction contemplated by this Agreement as Buyer may reasonably request.
- 6.3 <u>Seller's Conditions to Closing</u>. The obligation of Seller to consummate the Transaction is subject to the satisfaction (or waiver) as of the Closing of the following conditions:
  - (a) The representations and warranties contained in ARTICLE IV shall be true and correct in all material respects as of the date hereof and as of the Closing Date with the same effect as if made on and as of such date;
  - (b) Buyer shall have performed and complied in all material respects with all agreements, obligations and covenants required to be performed or complied with by it on or prior to the Closing Date; and
    - (c) at the Closing, Buyer shall have delivered to Seller all of the following:
      - (i) the Purchase Price;

- (ii) the Bill of Sale, duly executed by Buyer;
- (iii) the Intellectual Property Assignment and Assumption Agreement, duly executed by Buyer;
  - (iv) the License Agreement, duly executed by Buyer; and
- (v) such other documents relating to the Transaction contemplated by this Agreement as Seller may reasonably request.

## ARTICLE VII SURVIVAL

7.1 <u>Survival of Representations, Warranties and Covenants.</u> None of the representations and warranties contained in this Agreement shall survive the Closing. All covenants and agreements of the Parties contained in this Agreement shall survive the Closing indefinitely or for the period explicitly specified therein. The expiration of any covenant shall not affect any claim made in good faith and in accordance with this Agreement prior to the date of such expiration.

## ARTICLE VIII MISCELLANEOUS

- 8.1 <u>Expenses</u>. Except as expressly provided otherwise in this Agreement, each Party shall pay its own expenses in connection with the negotiation, execution and performance of this Agreement, the Transaction, and all things required to be done by it pursuant to this Agreement, including counsel fees, brokerage, finder or financial advisor fees, filing fees and accounting fees.
- 8.2 <u>Specific Performance</u>. Each Party's obligation under this Agreement is unique. If any Party should breach its covenants under this Agreement, the Parties each acknowledge that it would be extremely impracticable to measure the resulting damages; accordingly, the non-breaching Party or Parties, in addition to any other available rights or remedies, may sue in equity for specific performance.

#### 8.3 Governing Law; Waiver of Jury Trial; Consent to Jurisdiction; Service of Process.

- (a) All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, enforcement and interpretation of this Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Ohio without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions.
- (b) Each Party acknowledges and agrees that any Actions (in contract, in tort or otherwise) arising out of or relating to this Agreement, any transactions contemplated hereby, any relationships between or among the Parties hereunder and any disputes with respect to any of the foregoing is likely to involve complicated and difficult issues, and therefore it hereby irrevocably and unconditionally waives any right it may have to a trial by jury in respect of any such Action.

- (c) EACH PARTY HEREBY WAIVES PERSONAL SERVICE OF THE SUMMONS, COMPLAINT AND OTHER PROCESS ISSUED IN ANY ACTION OR SUIT AND AGREES THAT SERVICE OF SUMMONS, COMPLAINTS AND OTHER PROCESS MAY BE MADE BY REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED MAIL ADDRESSED TO SUCH PARTY AT THE ADDRESS SET FORTH IN SECTION 8.4 OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THAT SERVICE SO MADE SHALL BE DEEMED COMPLETED UPON THE EARLIER OF SUCH PARTY'S ACTUAL RECEIPT THEREOF OR THREE (3) DAYS AFTER DEPOSIT IN THE UNITED STATES MAIL, PROPER POSTAGE PREPAID.
- (d) Jurisdiction and venue for any litigation commenced by a Party to interpret the terms of this Agreement or to enforce this Agreement shall be in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, before Judge Dan Polster or any judge sitting in his place.
- 8.4 <u>Notices</u>. All notices, requests, demands, and other communications under this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed to have been duly given if delivered by hand; sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage and fees prepaid; Federal Express or similar overnight courier; or sent by email, and addressed as follows:

If to Seller: Mark E. Dottore

c/o Dottore Companies, LLC

2344 Canal Rd.

Cleveland, OH 44113 Attn: Mark E. Dottore

Email: mark@dottoreco.com

with a copy to: McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co., LPA

101 W. Prospect Ave., Suite 1800

Cleveland, OH 44115 Attn: Charles A. Nemer

Email: can@mccarthylebit.com

If to Buyer: Westcliff University

16715 Von Karman Avenue, #100

Irvine, California 92606

Attn: Anthony M. Lee, Ed.D., M.B.A.

Email: alee@westcliff.edu

with a copy to: Duane Morris LLP

750 B Street, Suite 2900 San Diego, CA 92101 Attn: Anthony J. Guida Jr.

Email: tguida@duanemorris.com

Addresses are permitted to be changed by notice in writing signed by a Party desiring to change such Party's address, but any such notice of change of address will not be effective until actually received by the other Party. All notices will be deemed given on the day delivered, if (a) personally delivered or emailed to the Party receiving such notice, provided that if delivered by email, a copy of the notice shall also be sent by the method in subsection (b) or (c) below; (b) on the business day after the day deposited, if delivered by Federal Express or similar overnight courier; or (c) on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) business day following deposit in the U.S. mail.

- 8.5 <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement is permitted to be executed in two or more counterparts, all of which taken together shall constitute one instrument. Copies of signatures of the Parties received by facsimile or email shall be effective as original signatures.
- 8.6 <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Agreement and Schedules and Exhibits referenced in this Agreement embody the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersede all prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings, oral or written, relative to said subject matter.
- 8.7 <u>Binding Effect; Assignment.</u> This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon Seller and Buyer and their successors and permitted assigns. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations hereunder shall be transferred or assigned (by operation of law or otherwise) by any of the Parties without the prior written consent of the other Parties, provided, however, that Buyer may assign this Agreement and all of its rights, interests and obligations under this Agreement to an Affiliate of Buyer without the consent of Seller. Any transfer or assignment of any of the rights, interests or obligations in violation of the terms of this Agreement shall be null and void.
- 8.8 <u>Amendment; Waiver</u>. This Agreement is not permitted to be amended, terminated, augmented, rescinded or discharged (other than by performance), in whole or in part, except by a writing executed by each of the Parties. No waiver of any of the provisions or conditions of this Agreement or any of the rights of a Party shall be effective or binding unless the waiver is in writing and signed by the Party claimed to have consented to it.

#### 8.9 Termination.

- (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, this Agreement and the Transaction may be terminated at any time prior to the Closing: (i) by mutual written consent of the Parties; or (ii) by Buyer, on the one hand, or Seller, on the other hand, if there has been a material misrepresentation, a material breach of any warranty or a material breach of any covenant on the part of the other Party with respect to the representations, warranties and covenants set forth in this Agreement and such breach has not been cured within ten (10) business days following notice.
- (b) If any Party terminates this Agreement as provided in this <u>Section 8.9</u>, all rights and obligations of the Parties under this Agreement shall terminate without any Liability of any Party to any other Party (except for any Liability of any Party then in breach).
- 8.10 <u>Severability</u>. With respect to any provision of this Agreement finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the Parties agree that such court shall

have jurisdiction to reform such provision so that it is enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the Parties agree to abide by such court's determination. If any such provision of this Agreement cannot be reformed, such provision shall be deemed to be severed from this Agreement, but every other provision of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

- 8.11 Third-party Beneficiaries. Each of the Parties intends that this Agreement shall not benefit or create any right or cause of action in or on behalf of any Person other than the Parties. Specifically, no provisions of this Agreement are intended, nor will be interpreted, to provide or create any third party beneficiary rights or other rights of any kind in any current or former student, employee, vendor, creditor or Affiliate of Seller, Argosy or the School or any other Person. Buyer shall have no liability whatsoever for payment of any broker or finder's fees and shall be indemnified and held harmless by Seller in the event it becomes the subject of a claim for such fees.
- 8.12 <u>Tax Advice and Reliance</u>. None of the Parties to this Agreement (nor any of the Parties' respective counsel, accountants or other representatives) has made or is making any representations to any other Party (or to any other Party's counsel, accountants or other representatives) concerning the consequences of the Transaction under applicable Tax laws. Each Party has relied solely upon the tax advice of its own representatives engaged by such Party and not on any such advice provided by any other Party.

[Remainder of Page Left Intentionally Blank]

[Signature pages on following page]

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Agreement has been executed by or on behalf of each of the Parties below as of the date first above written.

#### **BUYER:**

WESTCLIFF MANAGEMENT GROUP D/B/A WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY

By: Anthony M. Lee, Ed.D., M.B.A.

Title: President and CEO

#### **SELLER:**

By:

Name: Mark E. Dottore, solely in his capacity as Receiver for Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC pursuant to that certain Order Appointing Receiver entered on January 18, 2019, by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division

[Signature Page to Asset Purchase Agreement]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed by or on behalf of each of the Parties below as of the date first above written.

#### **BUYER:**

WESTCLIFF MANAGEMENT GROUP D/B/A WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY

By:

Name: Anthony M. Lee, Ed.D., M.B.A.

Title: President and CEO

**SELLER:** 

By:

Name: Mark E. Dottore, solely in his capacity as Receiver for Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC pursuant to that certain Order Appointing Receiver entered on January 18, 2019, by the United States District Court for the

by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division

[Signature Page to Asset Purchase Agreement]

# SCHEDULE I

# **Assumed Contracts**

None.

# **SCHEDULE II**

# Argosy Curriculum

# UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS
AA PSYCHOLOGY
AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
AS CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
BACHELOR PROGRAMS
BA LIBERAL ARTS
BA PSYCHOLOGY
BS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
BS CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CUSTOMIZED PROFESSIONAL
BS HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

RN TO BS NURSING						
BS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY						
GRADUATE CURRICULUM						
MASTER PROGRAMS						
MAED ADULT EDUCATION & TRAINING						
MAED EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION						
MAED HIGHER POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION						
MAED CURRICULUM AND INSTURCTION						
MA FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY						
MA INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION PSYCHOLOGY						
MA SPORTS EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY						
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT						

MBA
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MS HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT
MS HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
MS HUMAN SERVICES
MS ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
MS SERVICE SECTOR MANAGEMENT
MA CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
DOCTORAL PROGRAMS
Doctor of Business Administration
EDD COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

EDD HIGHER POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
TEACHING AND LEARNING
EDD ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
EDD PASTORAL COMMUNITY COUNSELING
EdD CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
EDD EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
EDUCATION SPECIALIST
EdS INITIAL EDUCATIONAL ADMIMISTRATION
EdS ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP STUDIES
EdS TEACHING AND LEARNING

#### **SCHEDULE III**

## **Intellectual Property**

Domain names and websites associated with the same:

wsulaw.edu

wsulaw.college

wsuprograms.info

Social Media Accounts:

Facebook Account: https://www.facebook.com/westernstatelaw/

Twitter Account: https://twitter.com/westernstatelaw

Instagram Account: https://www.instagram.com/westernstatecollegeoflaw/

YouTube Account: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwIoymcC9ecUw0loN5TqY3Q

LinkedIn Accounts:

https://www.linkedin.com/edu/western-state-university-college-of-law-17979

https://www.linkedin.com/school/western-state-university-college-of-law/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/western-state-college-of-law/

## Registered Marks:

Country	Mark	Status	Regstr. No.	Class	Goods And Services
United States	WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW	Registered	4,595,748	41	Education services, namely, providing courses of instruction at the post- secondary level, in Class 41.

Country	Mark	Status	Regstr. No.	Class	Goods And Services
United States	Western State College of Law Logo (Torch/Scales Design)	Registered	4,514,652	41	Education services, namely, providing courses of instruction at the post- secondary level, in Class 41.

#### **SCHEDULE 5.9**

### **Employees**

TO BE OFFERED EMPLOYMENT BY BUYER AND TERMINATED

ON JULY 31, 2019

Blasser, Lisa M.

Brower, Todd G.

Jones, Elizabeth N.

Koppel, Glenn

Mohr, Kevin E.

Molko, Robert

Roberts, Lori

Sheppard, Charles B.

Sobel, Stacey L.

Arshagouni, Paul G.

Keller, Susan

Eggleston, Sarah S.

Hartmann, Shari K.

Easley, Allen K.

Hang, Stacy

Ishmael, Brenda J.

Cohen, Rhonda D.

Espinoza, Donna J.

Jacquez, Ricardo

NOT TO BE TO BE OFFERED EMPLOYMENT BY BUYER AND TERMINATED ON OR BEFORE

JULY 18, 2019

Jaffke, Cheyanna

Koh, Jennifer L.

MacManus, Maureen D.

Manning, Paula J.

Merkel, Philip L.

Park, Eunice

Schindler, Tina I.

Todd, Monica M.

Porter, Tracie R.

# SCHEDULE 6.2(d)

# Actions or Proceedings

The License held by Argosy from the California Bureau of Post-Secondary Education has been cancelled effective June 30, 2019.

# **EXHIBIT A**

Bill of Sale

See attached.

### BILL OF SALE AND ASSIGNMENT

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			•	20	1	>

- 1. <u>Sale and Transfer of Assets.</u> Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC, a California limited liability company, by and through Mark E. Dottore, Receiver ("<u>Seller</u>"), appointed by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, and Westcliff Management Group, a California corporation, d/b/a Westcliff University ("<u>Buyer</u>") have entered into that certain Asset Purchase Agreement dated the 23rd day of July, 2019 (the "<u>Purchase Agreement</u>"). For good and valuable consideration, the receipt, adequacy and legal sufficiency for which are hereby acknowledged, as contemplated by Section 2.1 of the Purchase Agreement, Seller hereby sells, transfers, assigns, conveys, grants and delivers to Buyer, effective as of 12:01 a.m. Pacific Standard Time on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2019, all of Seller's right, title and interest in and to all of the Purchased Assets (as defined in the Purchase Agreement), free and clear of all Liens (as defined in the Purchase Agreement). Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings for such terms that are set forth in the Purchase Agreement.
- 2. <u>Terms of the Purchase Agreement</u>. The terms of the Purchase Agreement, including, but not limited to, Seller's representations, warranties, covenants, agreements and indemnities relating to the Purchased Assets, are incorporated herein by this reference. Seller acknowledges and agrees that the representations, warranties, covenants, agreements and indemnities contained in the Purchase Agreement shall not be superseded hereby but shall remain in full force and effect to the full extent provided therein. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of the Purchase Agreement and the terms hereof, the terms of the Purchase Agreement shall govern.
- 3. <u>Further Actions</u>. Seller hereto covenants and agrees to warrant and defend the sale, transfer, assignment, conveyance, grant and delivery of the Assets hereby made against all persons whomever, to take all steps reasonably necessary to establish the record of Buyer's title to the Purchased Assets and, at the request of Buyer, to execute such further instruments of transfer and assignment and to take such other action as Buyer may reasonably request to more effectively transfer and assign to and vest in Buyer each of the Purchased Assets.
- 4. <u>Severability</u>. If any provision of this Bill of Sale and Assignment is held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions of this Bill of Sale and Assignment will remain in full force and effect. Any provision of this Bill of Sale and Assignment held invalid or unenforceable only in part or degree will remain in full force and effect to the extent not held invalid or unenforceable.
- 5. <u>Governing Law</u>. This Bill of Sale and Assignment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law provision that would cause the laws of any jurisdiction other than those of the State of Ohio to be applied.

6. <u>Execution</u>. The exchange of copies of this Bill of Sale and Assignment and of signature pages by facsimile or electronic (including e-mail) transmission shall constitute effective execution and delivery of this Bill of Sale and Assignment as to the parties and may be used in lieu of the original Bill of Sale and Assignment for all purposes. Signatures of the parties transmitted by facsimile or electronically (including by e-mail) shall be deemed to be their original signatures for all purposes.

[Signature pages follow.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Seller and Buyer have executed this Bill of Sale and Assignment as of the date first written above.

Dream Center Argosy University LLC, a California limited liability co	of Californi
through Mark E. Dottore, Recei appointed by the United States Distri Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Di	ompany, by an ver (" <u>Seller</u> " ct Court for th
BUYER:	
WESTCLIFF MANAGEMENT OF WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY	GROUP D/B/

# **EXHIBIT B**

Intellectual Property Assignment and Assumption Agreement

See attached.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT

This INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT (this "Agreement"), dated as of [\_\_\_\_\_], 2019 (the "Effective Date"), is by and between DREAM CENTER ARGOSY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LLC, A California limited liability company, by and through MARK E. DOTTORE, RECEIVER ("Assignor"), appointed by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division (the "Court") and WESTCLIFF MANAGEMENT GROUP, A California corporation, d/b/a Westcliff University ("Assignee"). All capitalized terms used herein that are not otherwise defined shall have the definitions set forth in Schedule A hereto.

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, Assignor has also been appointed by the Court as receiver for Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company;

WHEREAS, Assignor wishes to assign all of Assignor's entire world-wide right, title and interest in and to Intellectual Property relating to Assignor's business of operating Western State College of Law at Argosy University (OPE ID 021799-37), including all of its locations, facilities, sites, and educational programs (collectively, the "Assignor Intellectual Property"), including but not limited to the Marks, Websites, Software, Accounts, and Copyrights identified on Schedule B hereto (if any, the "Assignor Marks," "Assignor Websites," "Assignor Software," "Assignor Accounts," and "Assignor Copyrights," respectively);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of that certain Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of July 23, 2019, by and among Assignor and Assignee (the "<u>Purchase Agreement</u>"), Assignee agreed to purchase certain assets of Assignor, including but not limited to the Assignor Intellectual Property; and

WHEREAS, Assignor wishes to assign to Assignee, and Assignee wishes to accept, the assignment of all of Assignor's right, title and interest in and to the Assignor Intellectual Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained and in the Purchase Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

### 1. Assignment of the Assignor Websites.

- (a) Assignor hereby irrevocably sells, assigns and transfers unto Assignee, and Assignee hereby receives, acquires and accepts, free and clear of all liens, all of Assignor's worldwide right, title, and interest in and to the Assignor Websites, including but not limited to all worldwide intellectual property rights and other proprietary rights in and to said Websites and all content incorporated into the same.
- (b) On or promptly after the Effective Date (but in any event within three (3) business days after the Effective Date), Assignee shall initiate a transfer request through its domain name registrar to transfer the domain name for each Assignor Website to Assignee. Assignor shall promptly complete all steps necessary to complete the transfer the domain names to Assignee,

including but not limited to (i) ensuring that the domain names are unlocked for transfer; (ii) providing Assignee with the transfer authorization code from its domain registrar; (iii) promptly consenting to the domain name transfer request; and (iv) take all further actions required to effect the Website assignment.

### 2. Assignment of the Assignor Accounts.

- (a) Assignor hereby irrevocably sells, assigns and transfers unto Assignee, and Assignee hereby receives, acquires and accepts, free and clear of all liens, all of Assignor's worldwide right, title, and interest in and to the Assignor Accounts, including but not limited to all worldwide intellectual property rights and other proprietary rights in and to said Accounts and all content incorporated into the same.
- (b) Promptly after the Effective Date, but in any event within three (3) days, Assignor will provide to Assignee all usernames, passwords, and other login credentials necessary to access, use, and modify the Assignor Accounts.

### 3. Assignment of the Assignor Marks.

- (a) Assignor hereby irrevocably sells, assigns and transfers to Assignee, and Assignee hereby receives, acquires and accepts, free and clear of all liens, all of Assignor's worldwide right, title and worldwide interest, in and to the Assignor Marks, including (i) all of the goodwill associated or connected with the use of, and symbolized by, the Assignor Marks, (ii) all registrations obtained by Assignor for the Assignor Marks including all extensions and renewals thereof, (iii) the right to file any document to maintain the Assignor Marks and any associated registrations, (iv) all common law trademark and trade name rights in the Assignor Marks, (v) the right to file applications for registration of the Assignor Marks worldwide, and (vi) the right to sue for past, present and future infringement, dilution or other violation of the Assignor Marks and collect and retain all damages, settlements and proceeds recovered therefrom; and all rights corresponding with any of the foregoing throughout the world.
- (b) Assignor hereby authorizes the Commissioner for Trademarks of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and all other corresponding entities or agencies in any applicable government or foreign countries, to record Assignee as the owner of the Assignor Marks.
- (c) Without limiting the foregoing, Assignor shall execute and deliver to Assignee the Trademark Assignment, in substantially the form attached hereto as <u>Schedule C</u>, effective as of the Effective Date, for recording and registering by the Commissioner for Trademarks of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and all other corresponding entities or agencies in any applicable government or foreign countries of the assignment contemplated thereby.
- 4. <u>Assignment of the Assignor Software</u>. Assignor hereby irrevocably sells, assigns and transfers unto Assignee, and Assignee hereby receives, acquires and accepts, free and clear of all liens, all of Assignor's worldwide right, title, and interest in and to the Assignor Software, including but not limited to all worldwide intellectual property rights and other proprietary rights therein.

- 5. Assignment of the Assignor Copyrights. Assignor hereby irrevocably sells, assigns and transfers unto Assignee, and Assignee hereby receives, acquires and accepts, free and clear of all liens, all of Assignor's worldwide right, title, and interest in and to the Assignor Copyrights, including: (a) all copyright registrations therefor, if any (and any further registrations or applications relating thereto and any renewals and extensions thereof, if any); (b) all worldwide copyright and moral rights therein, including all rights of modification and attribution; (c) the right to sue for past, present and future infringement or other violation of the Assignor Copyrights and collect and retain all damages, settlements and proceeds recovered therefrom; and (d) all rights corresponding with any of the foregoing throughout the world.
- 6. <u>Assignment of the Assignor Intellectual Property</u>. To the extent not otherwise assigned by Assignor pursuant to <u>Sections 1-5</u> of this Agreement, Assignor hereby irrevocably sells, transfers, assigns, conveys, and delivers to Assignee, and Assignee hereby receives, acquires and accepts, free and clear of all liens, all of Assignor's worldwide right, title, and interest in, to, and under the Assignor Intellectual Property.
- 7. <u>Controlling Agreement</u>. This Agreement is in accordance with and is subject to all of the representations, warranties, covenants and other agreements set forth in the Purchase Agreement. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be deemed to modify, amend, or supersede any of the terms or conditions of the Purchase Agreement. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of the Purchase Agreement and the terms hereof, the terms of the Purchase Agreement shall govern.
- 8. <u>Further Assurances</u>. Assignor hereby agrees to execute, at Assignee's sole cost and expense, such proper and additional documents as may be reasonably requested by Assignee or the governmental agencies or other organizations having jurisdiction over the Assignor Intellectual Property to give full effect to and perfect the rights of Assignee under this Agreement. Assignor shall not, directly or indirectly, challenge, attack or oppose the validity or Assignee's exclusive ownership and use of the Assignor Intellectual Property.
- 9. <u>Successors</u>. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.
- 10. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but such counterparts shall together (when executed and delivered) constitute but one and the same instrument. This Agreement may be executed and delivered in counterpart signature pages executed and delivered via facsimile transmission or by email transmission in Adobe portable document format (also known as "PDF"), and any such counterpart executed and delivered via facsimile transmission or by email transmission in Adobe portable document format (also known as "PDF") shall be deemed an original for all intents and purposes.
- Person or circumstance shall be invalid, illegal or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of this Agreement and the application of such provision to other persons or entities or circumstances shall not be affected thereby and shall be enforced to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law so long as the economic or legal substance of the transactions contemplated hereby is not affected in any manner materially adverse to any party. Upon such determination that any term or other provision is

invalid or unenforceable, the parties hereto shall negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement so as to effect the original intent of the parties as closely as possible in an acceptable manner to the end that the transactions contemplated hereby are fulfilled to the greatest extent possible.

- 12. <u>Headings</u>. The headings set forth in this Agreement are inserted or used for convenience of reference only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of the provisions of this Agreement.
- 13. Governing Law. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, enforcement and interpretation of this Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Ohio without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions.

[Signature page follows.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of the day and year first above written.

> Mark E. Dottore, solely in his capacity as receiver for Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC pursuant to that certain Order Appointing Receiver entered on January 18, 2019, by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division

WESTCLIFF MANAGEMENT GROUP, D/B/A WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY

By: Name: Anthony M. Lee, Ed.D., M.B.A.

Title: President and CEO

#### SCHEDULE A – DEFINITIONS

"Accounts" shall mean all social media, social networking, and other third party website accounts, including all usernames, passwords, and other login credentials relating thereto and all videos, images, media, comments, and other content uploaded thereon and goodwill associated therewith.

"Marks" shall mean all statutory and common law trademarks, trade dress, service marks, logos, trade names, business names, and other word, name, design or symbol used to identify a business or the source of its goods or services, and the goodwill associated therewith, now existing or hereafter adopted or acquired, and all registrations and applications to register the same, under the laws of the United States or any other foreign country, for the full term and all renewals thereof.

"Patents" shall mean all issued U.S. and foreign patents and pending patent applications (and all patents that issue therefrom), patent disclosures, and any and all divisions, continuations, continuations-in-part, continuing prosecution applications, reissues and reexaminations thereof, for the full term thereof.

"Trade Secrets" shall mean all data or information that is not commonly known by or available to the public and which (a) derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by third parties who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use and (b) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

"Copyrights" shall mean all works of authorship and all associated moral rights and copyright rights under the copyright laws of the United States and other countries

for the full term thereof, whether registered or unregistered, including, but not limited to, all applications for registrations, renewals, extensions and restorations of copyrights now or hereafter provided for by law and all rights to make applications for copyright registrations and recordations, regardless of the medium of fixation or means of expression.

"Software" shall mean all types of computer software programs including operating systems, application programs, software tools, firmware and software embedded in equipment, including both object code and source code versions thereof and all written or electronic materials that explain the structure or use of software or that were used in the development of software, including logic diagrams, flow charts, code notes, procedural diagrams, error reports, manuals and training materials.

"Websites" shall mean all websites or portions thereof that are operated, managed or controlled through a domain name and URL, whether on an exclusive or nonexclusive basis, including all content, elements, data, information, materials, hypertext markup language (HTML), software and code, works of authorship, textual works, visual works, aural works, audiovisual works and functionality embodied in, published or available through each such website or portion thereof, and all domain names and URLs associated with the foregoing, provided that such domain names and URLs shall not include IP addresses.

"Intellectual Property" shall mean all Marks, Copyrights, Websites, Software, Patents, Trade Secrets, Accounts, and all other worldwide intellectual property and proprietary rights therein.

### **SCHEDULE B**

### A. Assignor Domain Names and Websites

The following domain names and websites associated with the same:

wsulaw.edu

wsulaw.college

wsuprograms.info

### B. Assignor Accounts

Assignor's Facebook Account: https://www.facebook.com/westernstatelaw/

Assignor's Twitter Account: https://twitter.com/westernstatelaw

Assignor's Instagram Account: https://www.instagram.com/westernstatecollegeoflaw/

Assignor's YouTube Account:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwIoymcC9ecUw0loN5TqY3Q

Assignor's LinkedIn Accounts:

https://www.linkedin.com/edu/western-state-university-college-of-law-17979

https://www.linkedin.com/school/western-state-university-college-of-law/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/western-state-college-of-law/

# C. Assignor Marks

### 1. Registered Marks

Country	Mark	Status	Regstr. No.	Class	Goods And Services
United States	WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW	Registered	4,595,748	41	Education services, namely, providing courses of instruction at the post- secondary level, in Class 41.
United States	Western State College of Law Logo (Torch/Scales Design)	Registered	4,514,652	41	Education services, namely, providing courses of instruction at the post- secondary level, in Class 41.

# 2. <u>Unregistered Marks</u>

None.

### D. Assignor Copyrights

## 1. Copyright Registrations

None.

### 2. <u>Unregistered Copyrights</u>

All written materials associated or used in connection with Assignor's educational courses of Western State College of Law at Argosy University, which are attached hereto as Attachment 1.

## E. Assignor Software

None.

# Attachment 1 - School Curriculum

Course Name	Course Description
LAW101	Introduction to Legal Methods
LAW110	Criminal Law
LAW111	Contracts
LAW112	Contracts II
LAW118	Principles of Agency and Partnership
LAW125	Legal Writing and Research I
LAW126	Legal Writing and Research II
LAW131	Torts I
LAW132	Torts II
LAW141	Civil Procedures I
LAW142	Civil Procedures II
LAW151	Property I
LAW152	Property II
LAW160	Selected Topics in American Law
LAW201	Constitutional Law I
LAW202	Constitutional Law II
LAW213	Evidence
LAW216	Evidence Practice
LAW228	Basic Bar Studies
LAW234	Business Associations
LAW240	Professional Responsibility
LAW250	Federal Income Taxation
LAW303	Remedies
LAW308	Community Property
LAW311	Criminal Procedure
LAW321	Sales
LAW365	Honors Writing
LAW380	Information Law
LAW400	Domestic Violence
LAW401	Administrative Law
LAW402	Advanced Appellate Advocacy
LAW408	Advanced Trial Advocacy Mock Trial
LAW414	Bankruptcy
LAW416	California Civil Procedure
LAW422	Consumer Finance Law
LAW423	Contracts Drafting
LAW429	Law Practice Management and Technology
LAW437	Family Law

LAW440	Immigration Law
LAW442	Intellectual Property
LAW447	Juvenile Law
LAW448	Employment Law
LAW454	National Security
LAW460	Corporate Finance and Accounting for Lawyers
LAW461	Mediation
LAW463	Negotiations
LAW467	Criminal Law Externship
LAW472	Real Estate Transactions
LAW475	Race and Law
LAW483	Sports Law
LAW488	Interviewing and Counseling
LAW489	Trial Practice
LAW490	Trial Practice
LAW492	Workers Compensation
LAW497	Estates
LAW501	Immigration Legal Clinic
LAW502	Advanced Law Clinic
LAW504	Special Project
LAW505	Moot Court
LAW510	Law Review
LAW511	Judicial Appellate Externship
LAW514	Judicial Trial Externship
LAW517	Civil Practice Externship
LAW518	Pre-Trial Civil Litigation
LAW519	Pre-Trial Criminal Litigation
LAW520	Externship Seminar: Criminal
LAW521	Externship Seminar: Civil
LAW527	Patent Drafting
LAW545	Corporate Criminal Liability
LAW580	Law of Vice
LAW615	Death Penalty
LAW618	Business Law Ethics
LAW619	Criminal Justice Ethics
LAW623	Wills and Trusts Drafting
MC6000	Research, Analysis, and Communication Skills
MC6010	Constitutional Law
MC6012	Administrative Law
MC6014	Compliance and Organizational Structures

MC6020	Law of Medicare and Medicade
MC6022	Law of Patients' Rights
MC6024	Law of Accreditation and Licensure
MC6540	Building a Compliance Program
MC6500	Law of Risk Management
MC6502	Pharmaceutical Law
MC6510	Legal Perspectives on Healthcare Ethics
MC6512	Regulatory Compliance in the Healthcare Industry
MC6514	Healthcare as an Employee Benefit

#### SCHEDULE C

#### FORM OF TRADEMARK ASSIGNMENT

This Trademark Assignment (hereinafter "<u>Assignment</u>"), effective as of [\_\_\_\_\_], 2019 is made by Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company, by and through Mark E. Dottore, Receiver, appointed by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division,, with an address of c/o Dottore Companies, LLC, 2344 Canal Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44113 ("<u>Assignor</u>") in favor of WESTCLIFF MANAGEMENT GROUP, a California corporation, d/b/a Westcliff University, with an address of 16715 Von Karman Avenue, #100, Irvine, California 92606 ("Assignee").

WHEREAS, Assignor is the owner of the entire right, title and interest in and to the trademarks listed in Exhibit A (hereinafter "Marks"); and

WHEREAS, Assignee is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to the Marks and the business and the goodwill of the business in connection with which the Marks have been used.

NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby freely acknowledged, Assignor hereby sells, assigns, transfers and sets over to Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, the entire right, title and interest of Assignor in and to the Marks, together with all of the goodwill of the entire business associated with and symbolized by such Marks, the registration thereof, and all rights and privileges under each of the Marks, including the right to renew and otherwise prosecute the registration of each of the Marks and all rights to recover for damages and profits for future and/or past infringement, in the United States and throughout the world.

This Trademark Assignment is binding on the Assignor and its respective successors, heirs and assigns, and inures to the benefit of the Assignee and its successors and assigns.

[Signature Page to Follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned has caused this Trademark Assignment to be duly executed and delivered as of the date shown above.

Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company, by and through Mark E. Dottore, Receiver, appointed by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division

## **EXHIBIT A**

## Marks

Country	Mark	Status	Regstr. No.	Class	Goods And Services
United States	WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW	Registered	4,595,748	41	Education services, namely, providing courses of instruction at the post- secondary level, in Class 41.
United States	Western State College of Law Logo (Torch/Scales Design)	Registered	4,514,652	41	Education services, namely, providing courses of instruction at the post- secondary level, in Class 41.

# **EXHIBIT C**

Sale Order

See attached.

## `UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

DIGITAL MEDIA SOLUTIONS, LLC,	CASE NO. 1:19-cv-145
Plaintiff,	JUDGE DAN AARON POLSTER
V.	MAGISTRATE JUDGE THOMAS M. PARKER
SOUTH UNIVERSITY OF OHIO,	)
LLC, et. al.,	
Defendants.	

ORDER GRANTING EMERGENCY MOTION OF MARK E. DOTTORE, RECEIVER OF DREAM CENTER ARGOSY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LLC, FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SUBSTANTIALLY ALL OF THE ASSETS OF WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW AT ARGOSY UNIVERSITY, FREE AND CLEAR OF LIENS, ENCUMBRANCES, CLAIMS AND OTHER INTERESTS AND FOR TRANSFER OF THE INTERESTS OF UNPAID LIENHOLDERS TO THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE

This matter having come before the Court on the Motion (the "Sale Motion") of Mark E. Dottore (the "Receiver"), Receiver of Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC ("DCAUC"), for an Order Authorizing the sale of substantially all of the assets of Western State College of Law at Argosy University ("WSCL"), free and clear of all mortgages, pledges, security interests, liens, encumbrances, claims, charges and other interests of any kind or type whatsoever including any lien or priority payment pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3713 (the "Interests") and for the transfer of the Interests of unpaid holders of Interests to the proceeds of the sale. In the Sale Motion, the Receiver seeks the entry of an Order: (i) authorizing the sale of all or substantially all of the assets (the "Assets") of WSCL to Westcliff Management Group d/b/a Westcliff University or its assignee ("Westcliff" or the

"Buyer"), consistent with the terms of an Asset Purchase Agreement between Westcliff and the Receiver (the "APA") dated July \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2019; (ii) determining and directing that the sale of the Assets is c; and (iii) and transferring any unpaid claims of holders of Interests and other interest holders in the Assets to the proceeds of the sale; and (iv) granting such other and further relief as is warranted in the circumstances.

The Court having reviewed the Sale Motion, the Declaration of the Receiver, and all other pleadings, motions, objections, and other responses (the "Written Statements") related thereto, and a hearing having been held before this Court on July \_\_, 2019 (the "Sale Hearing"), to consider the proposed sale (the "Sale") of the Assets pursuant to the terms and conditions of the APA, at which time all parties in interest were afforded an opportunity to be heard and the Court having weighed and considered the Written Statements and the oral comments made at the Sale Hearing by the parties in interest:

### IT IS HEREBY FOUND AND DETERMINED THAT:

- A. All capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Sale Motion and the APA;
- B. The relief requested in this motion is governed by 28 U.S.C. § 3103(b)(1), FED. R. CIV. P. 66, Rule 66.1(c) and (d) of the Local Rules for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio (the "Local Rules"), federal common law and the Receiver Order;

 $^{2}$ 

C. The Interim Receiver Order provides,

- 2.n. The Receiver is authorized to negotiate and effect an orderly sale, transfer, use or assignment of all or a portion of any of the Property in or outside of the ordinary course of business of the Receivership Entities and, for the proceeds thereof, to pay the secured and unsecured indebtedness of the Property, including the Real Property... The Receiver is authorized to conduct such a sale of the Property in any manner which he, in his good faith and reasonable discretion, believes will maximize the proceeds received from the sale.
- D. The Amended Receiver Order provides that the Receiver's authority to negotiate and effect a sale of the assets is subject Paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Amended Receiver Order. Paragraph 13 affirms that the regulatory authority of the United States may not be stayed or constrained and Paragraph 14 affirms the validity of the Federal Priority Statute, 31 U.S.C. § 3713.
- E. Notice of the Sale Motion and the Sale was provided to hundreds of persons, who the Receiver identified as having an interest in the sale proceeding. Notice was served upon all parties to this lawsuit and their lawyers, the federal, state and local taxing authorities, all secured creditors, unsecured creditors that have demonstrated an interest in the Assets, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the California Bureau of Post-Secondary Education, the California Attorney General, and all applicable regulatory and accrediting agencies. The list of persons served through the Court is a matter of record; the additional parties served is contained in a certificate of service filed with the Court.

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- F. Proper, timely, adequate and sufficient notice of the Sale Motion, the Sale Hearing and the proposed Sale has been provided to all interested parties.
- G. Objections were filed by \_\_\_\_\_
- H. This Court has the authority to approve a Sale of the Assets free and clear of all Interests (except for the USDE Required Amounts), and to transfer all Interests whatever solely to the proceeds derived from the respective sales of the Assets.
- I. Liens reported against the Assets are as stated in the Sale Motion;
- J. Westcliff has not assumed any liabilities of WSCL or the Receivership Entities.
- K. The USDE has an interest in the Assets in any amount that is required to be paid prior to the change of ownership to Westcliff;
- L. Those other holders of Interests who did not object to the Sale Motion are deemed to have consented to the Sale. Those holders of Interests who did object, if any, are adequately protected by having their Interests, if any, attach to the proceeds of the Sale;
- M. Prior to the appointment of the Receiver and pursuant to documents relating to a transaction between, Studio Enterprise Manager, LLC ("Studio") and DCAUC among others, was provided a first right of refusal to purchase WSCL which was terminated in the Second

- Settlement Agreement between the Receiver and Studio dated May 14, 2019 and approved by the Court on June 3, 2019 (Doc. 331).
- N. Since his appointment in this case, the Receiver has marketed all of the Assets in a manner that was designed to attract the maximum number of individuals and groups with an interest in purchasing one or multiple campuses. Further, this case has been the subject of extensive press coverage. Through the press coverage and through earlier efforts to sell the institution, the Receiver's interest in a sale transaction and its financial situation were widely known among educators, educational institutions and investors in educational institutions and in excess of twenty prospective buyers have contacted the Receiver about the possibility of purchasing one or more campuses of the Receivership Entities;
- O. The APA submitted by Buyer is the highest, best and only offer received for the Assets. It represents the highest in terms of money offered for the Assets and also includes the opportunity to continue the institution and honor the students' wishes to complete their programs of study. Further, the APA provides an opportunity for current students to complete their programs, which will mitigate against the potential for millions of dollars of closed school discharge claims by current students against the Receivership Entities. The APA offers WSCL's creditors the most money and WSCL's students an

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uninterrupted education. Principals of Buyer will use their own institutional licensure, accreditation and USDE approvals to operate the school and have demonstrated postsecondary education experience and knowledge and are more likely than other prospective purchasers to be successful in obtaining approvals from regulatory authorities which are required to complete the sale transaction. Buyer also seeks to close at the earliest possible time and demonstrates the financial wherewithal to do so. A Sale to Buyer is consistent with good business judgment and is approved by this Court;

- P. If the Assets are not sold to Buyer at this time, they will be substantially devalued or the Sale will fail and WSCL will close. The Assets are more valuable when sold as a "going concern," that is, as an educational institution. The Sale to Buyer will also benefit WSCL's students, faculty and the community as WSCL will remain open. In order to sell the Assets as a continuing educational enterprise in good standing, the Seller must complete its sale transaction immediately, as it cannot continue to operate as an educational institution even for a short time without financial assistance and is in danger of losing both its accreditation and its ability to participate in federal student aid programs;
- Q. A reasonable opportunity to object or be heard with respect to the Sale Motion and the relief requested herein has been afforded to all

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interested persons and entities, including but not limited to, all parties and intervenors to this action, all secured lenders, all unsecured creditors who have requested that notices be sent to them, Attorney General of the State of California, all full time faculty members, all of WSCL's educational accrediting agencies, and other parties that the Receiver believes would have an interest in the Sale or who have requested that they be notified of any sale;

R. The Receiver has demonstrated that approval of the Sale Motion and consummation of the Sale to the Buyer at this time is in the best interests of WSCL, its creditors and its students. The Receiver has advanced good and sufficient business justification supporting the Sale of the Assets to the Buyer as set forth in the Sale Motion and at the Sale Hearing, and it is a reasonable exercise of the Receiver's business judgment to consummate the Sale of the Assets on the terms and conditions set forth in the APA, and to execute, deliver and perform its obligations thereunder. Sound business judgment includes, but is not limited to, the fact that (i) there is a risk of immediate and irreparable loss of value of the Assets if the Sale is not consummated, (ii) there is a substantial risk of loss of accreditation from the WASC Senior College and University Commission ("WSCUC") and American Bar Association ("ABA"), loss of licensure by the California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education ("BPPE"), and loss of eligibility to

participate in federal student aid programs (iii) WSCL cannot continue as an educational institution for even a short time without financial assistance, (iv) if WSCL ceases to operate as an educational institution, its students will be unable to complete their programs of study, resulting in potentially millions of dollars of closed school discharge claims by current students against the Receivership Entities, and (v) the consummation of the transaction contemplated under the APA presents the best opportunity to realize the value of the Assets to avoid further decline and devaluation thereof; (vi) the Sale is at arm's length; and (vii) the Receiver has exercised reasonable diligence and good faith judgment;

- S. The consideration to be paid by the Buyer for the Assets constitutes adequate and fair value for the Assets and the terms and conditions of the APA are fair and reasonable;
- T. The Receiver is authorized and directed to negotiate, execute and deliver all documents necessary to consummate the Sale with the Buyer on the same general terms and conditions as the APA with such changes as the Receiver, in his sole discretion, deems necessary or desirable, and is further authorized to execute other ancillary agreements and other documents to sell the Assets and to complete the Sale of the Assets without further order of this Court free and clear of all Interests whatsoever (except for the USDE Required Amounts), as

long as the terms and conditions of the APA and other documents are not materially worse, in the aggregate, to WSCL, or materially worse with respect to the interests of individual secured creditors, than the terms and conditions contained in the APA;

- U. DCAUC has good title to the Assets, and accordingly the sale of such Assets to the Buyer will be a legal, valid and effective Sale of the Assets;
- V. The terms and conditions of the APA were negotiated, proposed and entered into in good faith, from arm's length bargaining positions by the Receiver and the Buyer and constitute the highest or otherwise best offer for the Assets after a period in which third parties had ample opportunity to seek information and enter into discussions or negotiations with the Receiver concerning a sale of the Assets. The Buyer is entitled to the protections of a good faith purchaser with respect to the Sale approved hereby;
- W. The APA is conditioned upon several events, which include (i) all of the terms and conditions of the sale must be approved by the Court through an Order of Sale (as defined in the APA) and the Order of Sale must be final and not appealable; and (ii) the Sale must be free and clear of all Interests whatsoever (except for the USDE Required Amounts); and (iii) obtaining all necessary Pre-Closing Educational Consents (as defined in the APA). The Buyer will not consummate the

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transactions contemplated in the APA, thus adversely affecting WSCL, its creditors and its students, if the Sale of the Assets to the Buyer is not free and clear of Interests whatsoever, or if the Buyer would, or in the future could, be liable for any of the Interests of any kind or type whatsoever (except for the USDE Required Amounts);

- X. The Receiver does not have any interest in Buyer or any party affiliated with Buyer;
- Y. The Sale was non-collusive, fair and reasonable and conducted in good faith.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. The Sale of the Assets is approved and authorized on terms consistent with those in the APA which is attached to the Sale Motion and made a part hereof;
- 2. Any objections to the Sale Motion or the relief requested therein that have not been withdrawn, waived or settled, and all reservations of rights included therein, are overruled on the merits;
- 3. The APA is hereby approved and the Receiver is hereby authorized and empowered to fully perform under and consummate the Sale as contemplated under the APA on the same general terms and conditions as the APA. To the extent that changes are needed to consummate the Sale as contemplated under the APA, the Receiver, in his sole discretion, and without further order of this Court, is authorized to execute such additional instruments and documents that may be

reasonably necessary or desirable to implement the APA and to take all further actions as may reasonably be requested by the Buyer for the purpose of selling, assigning, transferring, granting, conveying and conferring to the Buyer, or reducing to the Buyer's possession, any or all of the Assets free and clear of all Interests;

- 4. As of the Closing of the Sale of the Assets (as defined in the APA), the sale of the Assets to the Buyer will be a legal, valid, enforceable, and effective sale of the Assets, and will vest the Buyer with all right, title, and interest in the Assets free and clear of all Interests of any kind or type whatsoever (except for the USDE Required Amounts) and all pre-Closing liabilities incurred or accrued by Argosy or WSCL, other than the Assumed Liabilities, shall be for the account of Argosy and attach to the proceeds of the Sale of the Assets, and Buyer shall have no liability therefor;
- 5. Subject to Buyer's funding obligations, all persons and entities holding or asserting any Interests arising under or out of, in connection with, or in any way relating to WSCL, the Receivership Entities, the Assets, the operation of WSCL's businesses prior to Closing or the transfer of the Assets to the Buyer, are hereby forever barred, estopped and permanently enjoined from asserting such Interests against the Buyer or any of the Assets. All persons and entities are hereby forever prohibited and enjoined from taking any action that would adversely affect or interfere with the ability of the Receiver to transfer the Assets to the Buyer in accordance with the terms of the APA and this Order;

- 6. The Buyer is not, shall not be, nor be deemed to be, a successor to WSCL, the Receiver or the Receivership Entities by reason of any theory of law or equity and the Buyer shall not assume or in any way be responsible for any liability, obligation, commitment or responsibility of WSCL, the Receiver or the Receivership Entities, or any debts, liabilities, responsibilities or commitments in any way relating to the Assets, or WSCL's, the Receiver's or the Receivership Entities' use of the Assets prior to Closing;
- 7. All persons and entities holding liens or interests, including the Secured Claimants, are hereby barred from asserting such liens or interests against the Buyer, its successors or assigns, or the Assets;
- 8. Effective upon Closing, all persons in possession of any of the Assets shall deliver such Assets to the Buyer at its request. All holders of Interests on any of the Assets are hereby directed to prepare and file promptly after the Closing, releases of such encumbrances reasonably satisfactory to the Receiver and the Buyer;
- 9. Proper, timely, adequate and sufficient notice of the proposed Sale has been provided by the Receiver to all relevant parties, and no other or further notice is required;
- 10. The foregoing notwithstanding, the provision of this Order authorizing the Sale of the Assets free and clear of all Interests whatsoever (except for the USDE Required Amounts) shall be self-executing, and notwithstanding the failure of the Receiver, the Buyer or any other party to execute, file or obtain releases,

discharges, termination statements, assignments, consents or other instruments to effectuate, consummate and/or implement the provisions hereof or the contemplated APA with respect to the Sale of the Assets, all liens, claims, encumbrances and interests on such Assets shall be deemed released and shall attach to the proceeds of the Sale (except for the USDE Required Amounts);

- 11. This Order shall be binding upon and govern the acts of all entities, including without limitation, all filing agents, filing officers, title agents, title companies, recorders of mortgages, recorders of deeds, registrars of deeds, administrative agencies, governmental departments, secretaries of state, federal, state and local officials, and all other persons or entities who may be required by operation of law, the duties of their office or contract to accept, file, register or otherwise record or release any documents or instruments, or who may be required to report to or insure title or state of title in or to any of the Assets, and each of the foregoing persons and entities is hereby directed to accept for filing any and all of the documents and instruments necessary and appropriate to consummate the transactions contemplated by the APA;
- 12. From and after entry of this Order, neither WSCL nor any creditor or other party in interest shall take or cause to be taken any action that would interfere with the sale of the Assets to the Buyer in accordance with the terms of this Order;
- 13. From and after entry of this Order, no creditor or other party in interest shall assert any claims or take any legal or other actions relating to the

Assets to be sold to Buyer, before the Closing of the Sale against Buyer, its principals or the Assets;

- 14. The Receiver is authorized to execute such other documents as are necessary or desirable to implement this Order;
- 15. The agreements entered into in November 2015 between Education Management Corporation and 39 state attorneys general and the District of Columbia do not apply to WSCL or the Assets following Closing;
- 16. This Court shall retain jurisdiction (i) to enforce and implement the terms and provisions of the contemplated APA and all amendments thereto, any waivers and consents thereunder and any other agreements executed in connection therewith, (ii) to resolve any disputes arising under or related to the APA, except as otherwise provided therein, and (iii) to interpret, implement and enforce the provisions of this Order.
- 17. The Objection of \_\_\_\_\_ (the "XXX Objection") filed by \_\_\_\_ ("XXX") is hereby resolved as follows:
- 18. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ.R. 54(B), this Order is a final Order and there is no just reason for delay.

## IT IS SO ORDERED.

ate:	
	MAGISTRATE JUDGE THOMAS M. PARKER
	JUDGE DAN AARON POLSTER

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mary K. Whitmer

Mary K. Whitmer (0018213) James W. Ehrman (0011006) Robert M. Stefancin (0047184) WHITMER & EHRMAN LLC 2344 Canal Road, Suite 401 Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2535 Telephone: (216) 771-5056

Email: mkw@weadvocate.net

Attorney for Mark E. Dottore, Receiver

{00022501-2} 15

## **EXHIBIT D**

## **Required Consents**

## **Pre-Closing Educational Consents**

U.S. Department of Education

WASC Senior College and University Commission

Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association

California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

Distance Education Accrediting Commission

## **Post-Closing Educational Consents**

U.S. Department of Education

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

# **EXHIBIT E**

License Agreement

See attached.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LICENSE AGREEMENT

This Intellectual Property License Agreement (the "Agreement"), made as of [\_\_\_\_], 2019 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Westcliff Management Group, a California corporation, d/b/a Westcliff University ("Licensee"), and Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC, a California limited liability company, by and through Mark E. Dottore, Receiver ("Licensor"), appointed by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division (the "Court"). All capitalized terms used herein that are not otherwise defined shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Purchase Agreement.

WHEREAS, Licensor and Licensee are parties to that certain Asset Purchase Agreement dated as of July 23, 2019 (the "Purchase Agreement")

WHEREAS, Licensor is the owner of the Argosy Curriculum;

WHEREAS, Licensee wishes to obtain a license to the Argosy Curriculum and Licensor is willing to grant such a license; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to that certain the Appointment Order entered on January 18, 2019, by the Court in Case No. 1:19-cv-145, Mark E. Dottore ("Receiver") was appointed receiver of Licensor and its direct subsidiaries.

*NOW, THEREFORE*, in consideration of the mutual representations, warranties, covenants, and conditions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound, the parties hereto agree as follows:

- 1. <u>Grant</u>. Licensor hereby grants to Licensee a non-exclusive, fully paid-up, unrestricted, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide right and license, to use, reproduce, distribute, perform, display, prepare derivative works of, make, have made, modify, sell, import, and export, without restrictions, the Argosy Curriculum. No royalty or license fee shall be due by Licensee to Licensor for the license granted herein.
- 2. <u>Sublicense and Assignment</u>. This Agreement may be freely sublicensed, assigned, or transferred by the Licensee to any third party without the prior written consent of the Licensor.
- 3. <u>Miscellaneous</u>. This Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of all parties and their respective heirs, legal representatives, executors, administrators, successors, and permitted assigns. If any portion of this Agreement is terminated or adjudged to be void or unenforceable, that portion shall be severed and the remainder of its provisions shall continue and shall be effective and enforceable. The waiver by either party of a breach of or a default under any provision of this Agreement, shall not be effective unless in writing and shall not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of or default under the same or any other provision of this Agreement, nor shall any delay or omission on the part of either party to exercise or avail itself of any right or remedy that it has or

may have hereunder operate as a waiver of any right or remedy. No change or modification of this Agreement shall be valid unless the same is in writing and signed by all parties. This Agreement does not create any joint venture/collaboration, partnership, principal-agent relationship, or any other relationship between the Parties hereto. This Agreement contains the entire and only agreement between the parties and supersedes all pre-existing agreements between them respecting its subject matter. Any representation, promise or condition in connection with such subject matter which is not incorporated in this Agreement shall not be binding upon either party. A copy, facsimile, or electronic copy of a signature shall have the same force and effect as an original signature. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original, but, which together shall constitute a single document.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly authorized, executed, and delivered as of the Effective Date.

WESTCLIFF MANAGEMENT GROUP D/B/A WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY	Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC			
(Signature)	(Signature)			
	By: Mark E. Dottore, solely in his capacity as Receiver for Dream Center Argosy University of California, LLC pursuant to that certain Order Appointing Receiver entered on January 18, 2019, by			
By: Anthony M. Lee, Ed.D., M.B.A	the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern			
Its: President and CEO	Division			

#### Steward, Jamal

Steward, Jamal From:

Thursday, September 5, 2019 10:51 AM Sent: To: Jones, Diane; Powers, Michael E.

Cc: Frola, Michael

Subject: RE: DRT 2360: Dream Center Closed School Discharge

Hi Diane,

FYI – FSA's Data Governance Board (DGB) just conducted a privacy review of the updated Dream Center closed school loan discharge (CSLD) data shared with you (which involved verifying whether masking is needed where there are less than ten borrower counts revealed). As a result of the review, the DGB suggested that you use the table below if you intend to share it outside of ED.

				Actual Closed School Discharges (EDW&A)		Estimated Closed School Loan Discharges Remaining (NSLDS)*		Maximum Amount of Potential Closed School Loan Discharges**		
OPEID8	Location Name	City	State	Closure Date	CS Discharge Amount	CS Distinct Borrower Count	Est. CS Discharge Amount	Est. CS Distinct Borrower Count	Total CS Discharge Amount	Total CS Borrower Count
00781900	Art Institute of Portland (The)	Portland	OR	12/14/18	\$1,189,980	45	\$1,969,647	77	\$3,159,627	122
00781902	Art Institute of Portland (The) - Industrial Design Workshop	Portland	OR	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10
00781903	Art Institute of Portland (The) - Culinary Arts Facility	Portland	OR	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10
00835000	Art Institute of Philadelphia (The) -	Philadelphia	PA	12/14/18	\$705,746	35	\$2,175,979	75	\$2,881,725	110
00835001	Art Institute of Philadelphia (The)	Philadelphia	PA	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10
00887808	Miami International University of Art & Design - Art Inst of Charlotte	Charlotte	NC	12/14/18	\$118,323	12	\$915,161	67	\$1,033,484	79
00887809	Miami International University of Art & Design - Art Inst Raleigh	Durham	NC	12/14/18	\$287,414	25	\$1,247,709	74	\$1,535,123	99
00927002	Art Institute of Atlanta (The) - Art Institute of Washington (The)	Arlington	VA	12/14/18	\$571,858	27	\$3,352,290	91	\$3,924,148	118
00927003	Art Institute of Atlanta (The) - Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville	Nashville	TN	12/14/18	\$250,124	10	\$901,539	27	\$1,151,663	37
00927004	Art Institute of Atlanta (The) - The Art Institute of Charleston	Charleston	SC	12/14/18	\$240,194	12	\$2,116,255	74	\$2,356,449	86
01019500	Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale (The)	Fort Lauderdale	FL	12/14/18	\$468,282	20	\$1,587,954	65	\$2,056,236	85
01019501	Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale (The) - Harbor Place Building	Fort Lauderdale	FL	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10
01258400	Illinois Institute of Art (The)	Chicago	IL	12/14/18	\$684,990	19	\$1,416,149	50	\$2,101,139	69
01258401	Illinois Institute of Art (The) - The IL Institute of Art - Schaumburg	Schaumburg	IL	12/14/18	\$201,329	10	\$748,853	35	\$950,182	45
01258405	Illinois Institute of Art (The) - The Art Institute of Michigan	Novi	MI	12/14/18	\$728,805	32	\$1,303,077	37	\$2,031,882	69
02078900	Art Institute of Colorado (The)	Denver	co	12/14/18	\$564,487	24	\$884,293	44	\$1,448,780	68
02078904	Art Institute of Colorado (The)	Denver	co	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10
02179914	Argosy University - Nashville	Nashville	TN	12/14/18	\$928,676	16	\$5,419,249	96	\$6,347,925	112
02179918	Argosy University - Sarasota	Sarasota	FL	12/14/18	\$1,877,452	32	\$9,082,198	159	\$10,959,650	191
02179921	Argosy University - Schaumburg	Schaumburg	IL	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	\$11,018,401	86	\$11,957,787	94
02179929	Argosy University - San Diego	San Diego	CA	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	\$2,960,047	50	\$3,047,384	54
02179930	Argosy University - Denver	Denver	CO	12/14/18	\$356,388	10	\$3,371,354	79	\$3,727,742	89
02179932	Argosy University - Inland Empire	Ontario	CA	12/14/18	\$856,583	24	\$7,478,874	132	\$8,335,457	156
02179943	Argosy University - The Art Institute of California - San Francisco	San Francisco	CA	12/14/18	\$692,740	23	\$1,966,483	72	\$2,659,223	95
02179944	Argosy University - The Art Institute of California - Orange County	Santa Ana	CA	12/14/18	\$654,766	34	\$3,013,230	97	\$3,667,996	131
02179945	Argosy University - The Art Institute of California - Sacramento	Sacramento	CA	12/14/18	\$653,336	27	\$1,730,272	63	\$2,383,608	90
02179948	Argosy University - The Art Institute of California - Inland Empire	San Bernardino	CA	12/14/18	\$1,889,794	97	\$4,888,752	184	\$6,778,546	281
04051304	Art Institute of Phoenix (The) - Art Institute of Indianapolis (The)	Indianapolis	IN	12/14/18	\$454,052	27	\$2,379,379	83	\$2,833,431	110
04051346	Art Institute of Phoenix (The)	Phoenix	AZ	12/14/18	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10	Privacy Restricted	<10
				<b>Grand Total</b>	\$15,402,042	573	\$72,009,951	1,820	\$87,411,993	2,393

#### Jamal

 $Working\ hours: Mon-Thur\ 6:30am-4:00pm\ (US\ EST)\ and\ every\ other\ Friday\ 6:30am-3:00pm\ (US\ EST)$ 

 ${\tt PRIVILEGED, PREDECISIONAL, AND DELIBERATIVE COMMUNICATION. \ DO NOT RELEASE OR OTHERWISE DISSEMINATE. \\$ 

From: Steward, Jamal

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:30 PM

To: Jones, Diane <Diane.Jones@ed.gov>; Powers, Michael E. <Michael.E.Powers@ed.gov>
Cc: Frola, Michael <Michael.Frola@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: DRT 2360: Dream Center Closed School Discharge

Hi Diane,

5)

b)(5)
Working hours: Mon-Thur 6:30am – 4:00pm (US EST) and every other Friday 6:30am – 3:00pm (US EST)
PRIVILEGED, PREDECISIONAL, AND DELIBERATIVE COMMUNICATION. DO NOT RELEASE OR OTHERWISE DISSEMINATE.
From: Jones, Diane < <u>Diane_Jones@ed.gov</u> > Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 4:00 PM To: Powers, Michael E. <u>&lt; Michael E. Powers@ed.gov</u> > Cc: Frola, Michael < <u>Michael Frola@ed.gov</u> >; Steward, Jamal < <u>Jamal.Steward@ed.gov</u> > Subject: RE: DRT 2360: Dream Center Closed School Discharge
THanks!
From: Powers, Michael E. < <u>Michael E. Powers@ed.gov</u> > Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 3:11 PM  To: Jones, Diane < <u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u> > Cc. Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> >; Steward, Jamal < <u>Jamal.Steward@ed.gov</u> > Subject: RE: DRT 2360: Dream Center Closed School Discharge
Mike asked me to send this to you – we believe the effective date is July 24, per Jamal's notes in the fine print. Once everyone is back early next week, we'll have the numbers updated.
Actual CSLD as of that date were \$11,838,755. Detail below.
Hope that helps,
Michael E. Powers Case Manager Multi-Region and Foreign School Participation Division Pregional Compliance Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education Fel: 312.730.1729
(b)(5)

PRIVILEGED, PREDECISIONAL, AND DELIBERATIVE COMMUNICATION. DO NOT RELEASE OR OTHERWISE DISSEMINATE.

# Mangold, Donna

Mangold, Donna

From:

Sent:	Thursday, September 5, 2019 11:59 AM
To:	Jones, Diane; Frola, Michael; Minor, Robin
Subject:	RE: DCEH/Argosy transcripts and ledgers
•	
b)(5)	
From: Jones. Dian	e < Diane. Jones @ed.gov >
	ust 30, 2019 3:44 PM
<b>To:</b> Mangold, Don	na <donna.mangold@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Minor, Robin</michael.frola@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov>
<robin.minor@ed< td=""><td></td></robin.minor@ed<>	
<b>Subject:</b> DCEH/Ar	gosy transcripts and ledgers
(b)(5)	

(b)(5)

Diane

Diane Auer Jones Principal Deputy Under Secretary delegated the duties of Under Secretary 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

202-453-7333

Frola, Michael

Frola, Michael

From:

Sent:	Wednesday, February 5, 2020 11:28 AM					
To:	Mangold, Donna; Jones, Diane; Powers, Michael E.; Arthur, Julie; Steward, Jamal Minor, Robin RE: CSLD					
Cc:						
Subject:						
Attachments:	FW: Change of Ownership.msg					
(b)(5)						
Thanks,						
Mike						
Original Mess						
•	Oonna <donna.mangold@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov>					
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	February 5, 2020 11:06 AM :Diane.Jones@ed.gov>; Powers, Michael E.					
•	rs@ed.gov>; Arthur, Julie <julie.arthur@ed.gov>; Steward, Jamal</julie.arthur@ed.gov>					
<pre></pre> <pre><!--</th--><th></th></pre>						
	<robin.minor@ed.gov></robin.minor@ed.gov>					
Subject: RE: CSLD						
(b)(5)						
Original Mess	2ge					
-	e <diane.jones@ed.gov></diane.jones@ed.gov>					
	February 5, 2020 10:38 AM					
To: Frola, Michael	l <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Powers, Michael E. <michael.e.powers@ed.gov>; Mangold,</michael.e.powers@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov>					
Donna < Donna. Ma	angold@ed.gov>; Arthur, Julie <julie.arthur@ed.gov>; Steward, Jamal</julie.arthur@ed.gov>					
<pre><jamal.steward@< pre=""></jamal.steward@<></pre>						
	<robin.minor@ed.gov></robin.minor@ed.gov>					
Subject: RE: CSLD						
(b)(5)						
Thanks,						
Diane						
Original Mess						
•	ael <michael.frola@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov>					
• •	February 5, 2020 9:57 AM					
	ael E. <michael.e.powers@ed.gov>; Mangold, Donna <donna.mangold@ed.gov>; Arthur,</donna.mangold@ed.gov></michael.e.powers@ed.gov>					
	@ed.gov>; Steward, Jamal <jamal.steward@ed.gov> :Diane.Jones@ed.gov&gt;; Minor, Robin <robin.minor@ed.gov></robin.minor@ed.gov></jamal.steward@ed.gov>					
cc. Jones, Diane \	Diane.Jones@ed.gov/, Willior, Nobili \Nobili.Willior@ed.gov/					

Subject: RE: CSLD
(b)(5)
(b)(5)
Thanks, Mike FrolaOriginal Message From: Powers, Michael E. <michael.e.powers@ed.gov> Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9:46 AM To: Mangold, Donna <donna.mangold@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Arthur, Julie <julie.arthur@ed.gov>; Steward, Jamal <jamal.steward@ed.gov> Cc: Jones, Diane <diane.jones@ed.gov>; Minor, Robin <robin.minor@ed.gov> Subject: RE: CSLD  Morning, all</robin.minor@ed.gov></diane.jones@ed.gov></jamal.steward@ed.gov></julie.arthur@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov></michael.e.powers@ed.gov>
(b)(5)
Michael E. Powers Case Manager Multi-Regional and Foreign Schools Participation Division Program Compliance Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education Tel: 312.730.1729
Original Message From: Mangold, Donna <donna.mangold@ed.gov> Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:37 AM To: Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Powers, Michael E. <michael.e.powers@ed.gov>; Arthur, Julie <julie.arthur@ed.gov>; Steward, Jamal <jamal.steward@ed.gov> Cc: Jones, Diane <diane.jones@ed.gov>; Minor, Robin <robin.minor@ed.gov> Subject: FW: CSLD</robin.minor@ed.gov></diane.jones@ed.gov></jamal.steward@ed.gov></julie.arthur@ed.gov></michael.e.powers@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov>

Adding Mike et al.

From: Jones, Diane < Diane. Jones@ed.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:09 AM
To: Foss, Ian <ian.foss@ed.gov>; McGinnis, Colleen <colleen.mcginnis@ed.gov>; Minor, Robin</colleen.mcginnis@ed.gov></ian.foss@ed.gov>
<robin.minor@ed.gov>; May, Todd <todd.may@ed.gov>; Hammond, Cynthia <cynthia.hammond@ed.gov></cynthia.hammond@ed.gov></todd.may@ed.gov></robin.minor@ed.gov>
; Jordan, April <april.jordan@ed.gov>; Mangold, Donna <donna.mangold@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov></april.jordan@ed.gov>
Subject: CSLD
ALVES
(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

## Miller, Lia

From: Miller, Lia

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 5:00 PM

To: Frola, Michael

Subject: FW: Change of Ownership

### Hello

I'm not sure what your staffing is like right now so I wanted to make sure you saw this.

Please let me know if you need anything additional.

Thanks!

## -Lía

From: Miller, Lia

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:06 AM

To: Dossa, Shein (Shein.Dossa@ed.gov) <Shein.Dossa@ed.gov>

Subject: Change of Ownership

#### Hello

We have completed the second transaction for the change of ownership from EDMC to Dream Center Education Holdings. As of January  $19^{th}$ , the schools listed below are now part of Dream Center Education Holdings.

- The Art Institute of Pittsburgh (007470-00)
- The Art Institute of Philadelphia (008350-00)
- The Art Institute of Colorado (020789-00)
- The Illinois Institute of Art (012584-00)

Please let me you know when you will be opening the e-apps so I can make the appropriate updates.

### Thanks!

### Lia Miller

DCEH - Student Finance & Compliance

Business Analyst II PH: 412-995-7416 Immiller@dcedh.org



From:	Mangold, Donna					
Sent:	Wednesday, February 5, 2020 1:28 PM					
То:	Jones, Diane; Hill, Elizabeth; Eitel, Robert; Rubinstein, Reed; Brown, Mark; Morabito, Angela; Harding, Jordan					
Cc:	Jordan, April; O'Brien, Marianna; Bailey, Nathan; Frola, Michael					
Subject:	RE: CSD for HLC accredited schools - UPDATE on the date of the DCEH CIO					
•						
Attachments:	Draft Presss Release - Extended CSLD HLC schools.dsm.2 edits.docx					
(b)(5)						
(-/(-/						
From: Jones, Diane < D						
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	bruary 5, 2020 12:52 PM					
•	Donna.Mangold@ed.gov>; Hill, Elizabeth <liz.hill@ed.gov>; Eitel, Robert</liz.hill@ed.gov>					
<robert.eitel@ed.gov< th=""><th>&gt;; Rubinstein, Reed <reed.rubinstein@ed.gov>; Brown, Mark <mark.brown@ed.gov>;</mark.brown@ed.gov></reed.rubinstein@ed.gov></th><th></th></robert.eitel@ed.gov<>	>; Rubinstein, Reed <reed.rubinstein@ed.gov>; Brown, Mark <mark.brown@ed.gov>;</mark.brown@ed.gov></reed.rubinstein@ed.gov>					
Morabito, Angela <an< th=""><th>gela.Morabito@ed.gov&gt;; Harding, Jordan &lt; Jordan.Harding@ed.gov&gt;</th><th></th></an<>	gela.Morabito@ed.gov>; Harding, Jordan < Jordan.Harding@ed.gov>					
Cc: Jordan, April <apr< th=""><th>il.Jordan@ed.gov&gt;; O'Brien, Marianna <marianna.obrien@ed.gov>; Bailey, Nathan</marianna.obrien@ed.gov></th><th></th></apr<>	il.Jordan@ed.gov>; O'Brien, Marianna <marianna.obrien@ed.gov>; Bailey, Nathan</marianna.obrien@ed.gov>					
<nathan.bailey@ed.g< th=""><th>ov&gt;; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></th><th></th></nathan.bailey@ed.g<>	ov>; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov>					
Subject: RE: CSD for H	ILC accredited schools - UPDATE on the date of the DCEH CIO					
<u></u>						
(b)(5)						
Diane		_				
From: Mangold, Donr	na < <u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u> >					
•	bruary 5, 2020 12:01 PM					
• •	Hill@ed.gov>; Jones, Diane < Diane.Jones@ed.gov>; Eitel, Robert < Robert.Eitel@ed.gov>;					
Rubinstein, Reed < <u>Reed.Rubinstein@ed.gov</u> >; Brown, Mark < <u>Mark.Brown@ed.gov</u> >; Morabito, Angela						
<a href="mailto:&lt;/a&gt; &lt;a href=" mailto:angilto:a<="" th=""></a>						
Cc: Jordan, April <a href="mailto:April.Jordan@ed.gov">April.Jordan@ed.gov</a> >; O'Brien, Marianna <a href="mailto:Marianna.OBrien@ed.gov">Marianna.OBrien@ed.gov</a> >; Bailey, Nathan						
< <u>Nathan.Bailey@ed.gov</u> >; Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> > <b>Subject:</b> RE: CSD for HLC accredited schools - UPDATE on the date of the DCEH CIO						
Subject: RE: CSD for F	LC accredited Schools - OPDATE on the date of the DCEH CIO					
(b)(5)		-				
N-/\-/						

From: Mangold, Donna

Mangold, Donna

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 11:18 AM

**To:** Hill, Elizabeth <<u>Liz.Hill@ed.gov</u>>; Jones, Diane <<u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u>>; Eitel, Robert <<u>Robert.Eitel@ed.gov</u>>;

Rubinstein, Reed <  $\frac{\text{Reed.Rubinstein@ed.gov}}{\text{Rown, Mark}} \times \frac{\text{Mark.Brown@ed.gov}}{\text{Morabito@ed.gov}}; \text{ Morabito, Angela} \times \frac{\text{Morabito@ed.gov}}{\text{Morabito@ed.gov}} \times \frac{\text{Morabito@ed.gov}}{\text{Morabito@ed.gov}}$ 

**Cc:** Jordan, April < <u>April.Jordan@ed.gov</u>>; O'Brien, Marianna < <u>Marianna.OBrien@ed.gov</u>>; Bailey, Nathan < <u>Nathan.Bailey@ed.gov</u>>

Subject: RE: CSD for HLC accredited schools

My suggested edits are attached.

From: Hill, Elizabeth <<u>Liz.Hill@ed.gov</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:49 AM

To: Jones, Diane < Diane.Jones@ed.gov >; Eitel, Robert < Robert.Eitel@ed.gov >; Rubinstein, Reed

<<u>Reed.Rubinstein@ed.gov</u>>; Brown, Mark <<u>Mark.Brown@ed.gov</u>>; Mangold, Donna <<u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u>>;

Morabito, Angela <a href="mailto:Angela.Morabito@ed.gov">Angela <a href="mailto:Angela.Morabito.Morabi

Cc: Jordan, April < April. Jordan@ed.gov >; O'Brien, Marianna < Marianna. OBrien@ed.gov >; Bailey, Nathan

<Nathan.Bailey@ed.gov>

Subject: RE: CSD for HLC accredited schools

Thanks, Diane! I've gotten the press release started and I think it's in a decent pla	ace. (b)(5)
(b)(5)	I'm going to have Angel
work with you guys to finish it up. (b)(6)	I'm accessible by
phone, email all day.	
From: Jones, Diane < <u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u> >	
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:44 AM	
To: Hill, Elizabeth < <u>Liz.Hill@ed.gov</u> >; Eitel, Robert < <u>Robert.Eitel@ed.gov</u> >; Rubinsto	ein, Reed
< <u>Reed.Rubinstein@ed.gov</u> >; Brown, Mark < <u>Mark.Brown@ed.gov</u> >; Mangold, Do	nna < <u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u> >;
Morabito, Angela < Angela. Morabito@ed.gov >; Harding, Jordan < Jordan. Harding	@ed.gov>
Cc: Jordan, April < April. Jordan@ed.gov >; O'Brien, Marianna < Marianna. OBrien@e	ed.gov>; Bailey, Nathan
<nathan.bailey@ed.gov></nathan.bailey@ed.gov>	
Subject: RE: CSD for HLC accredited schools	
(b)(5)	

From: Hill, Elizabeth <Liz.Hill@ed.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:11 AM

To: Jones, Diane < <u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u>>; Eitel, Robert < <u>Robert.Eitel@ed.gov</u>>; Rubinstein, Reed

<Reed.Rubinstein@ed.gov>; Brown, Mark <<u>Mark.Brown@ed.gov</u>>; Mangold, Donna <<u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u>>;

Morabito, Angela < Angela. Morabito@ed.gov >; Harding, Jordan < Jordan. Harding@ed.gov >

**Cc:** Jordan, April < <u>April.Jordan@ed.gov</u>>; O'Brien, Marianna < <u>Marianna.OBrien@ed.gov</u>>; Bailey, Nathan

<Nathan.Bailey@ed.gov>

Diane

Subject: RE: CSD for HLC accredited schools

+Jordan for awareness/Congressional notifications

From: Hill, Elizabeth

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:04 AM

To: Jones, Diane <<u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u>>; 'Eitel, Robert' <<u>Robert.Eitel@ed.gov</u>>; Rubinstein, Reed

<<u>Reed.Rubinstein@ed.gov</u>>; Brown, Mark <<u>Mark.Brown@ed.gov</u>>; Mangold, Donna <<u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u>>;

Morabito, Angela < Angela. Morabito@ed.gov >

**Cc:** Jordan, April <<u>April.Jordan@ed.gov</u>>; O'Brien, Marianna <<u>Marianna.OBrien@ed.gov</u>>; 'Bailey, Nathan (<u>Nathan.Bailey@ed.gov</u>)' <<u>Nathan.Bailey@ed.gov</u>>

Subject: CSD for HLC accredited schools

Hi team,

Thanks!

Liz

#### Liz Hill

Delegated to perform the duties of the Assistant Secretary Communications Director Office of Communications and Outreach U.S. Department of Education 202-453-7877 (work) 202-465-0509 (cell) Page 2238
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 2239
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(b)(5)
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

### Minor, Robin

From: Minor, Robin

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:06 PM

**To:** Jones, Diane; Lindsey, Joe; Beth, Brittany

Cc: Frola, Michael; Foss, Ian; Hokanson, Jesse; Brickman, Michael

**Subject:** RE: Data Request

Diane,

I have the request out to the team to let me know how quickly this can be done and to see if they have any questions. I know this is urgent but do you have a specific timeline in mind? Just wanted to let you know we're on it.

From: Jones, Diane < Diane. Jones @ed.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:49 PM

To: Lindsey, Joe <joe.lindsey@ed.gov>; Beth, Brittany <Brittany.Beth@ed.gov>

Cc: Frola, Michael < Michael. Frola@ed.gov>; Minor, Robin < Robin. Minor@ed.gov>; Foss, Ian < Ian. Foss@ed.gov>;

Hokanson, Jesse <Jesse. Hokanson@ed.gov>; Brickman, Michael <Michael. Brickman@ed.gov>

Subject: RE: Data Request

I'm sorry – I can't believe I just reversed your names. I should have said Hi Brittany! Sorry.

From: Jones, Diane

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:48 PM

To: Lindsey, Joe <joe.lindsey@ed.gov>; Beth, Brittany <Brittany.Beth@ed.gov>

Cc: Frola, Michael < Michael. Frola@ed.gov >; Minor, Robin < Robin. Minor@ed.gov >; Foss, Ian < Ian. Foss@ed.gov >;

Hokanson, Jesse <a href="Jesse.Hokanson@ed.gov">"> Brickman, Michael <a href="Michael.Brickman@ed.gov">"> Brickman@ed.gov</a>>

Subject: RE: Data Request

Hi Beth,

I'm looping you in as per Joe's out of office message.

THanks, Diane

From: Jones, Diane

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:47 PM

To: Joe Lindsey (joe.lindsey@ed.gov) <joe.lindsey@ed.gov>

Cc: Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov >; Minor, Robin < Robin.Minor@ed.gov >; Foss, Ian < Ian.Foss@ed.gov >;

Hokanson, Jesse <a href="mailto:Jesse.Hokanson@ed.gov">Jesse.Hokanson@ed.gov</a>); Brickman, Michael (Michael.Brickman@ed.gov)

<Michael.Brickman@ed.gov>

Subject: Data Request

Hi Joe,

We have a data request and for the Secretary's budget hearing, so we need quick turn-around. Please send what you

(b)(5)

(b)(5)		

I know this is a big request, so maybe we should get a group on the phone to talk through this so that I know what additional questions need to be answered to do the data pull.

Thanks,

Diane

Diane Auer Jones Principal Deputy Under Secretary delegated the duties of Under Secretary 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

202-453-7333

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject: Importance:	Jones, Diane Tuesday, February 18, 2020 12:46 PM Lindsey, Joe Frola, Michael; Minor, Robin; Foss, Ian; Hokanson, Jesse; Brickman, Michael RE: Data Request High		
This is for the Secretary category of school. I re	To be clear, these are the data items I need:  This is for the Secretary's budget hearing so we need to group institutions so that there are single numbers for each category of school. I reference the earlier data tables because we used similar groupings then. The grouping include:		
(b)(5)			
b)(5)			

Jones, Diane

This is why I asked if we needed a call earlier. I thought when we met to discuss data requests, we agreed that I would paint the big picture for what data I needed and why I needed it, and then the data team at FSA was going to

what is possible. I guess that process is not yet in place.
(b)(5)
Thanks, Diane
From: Jones, Diane Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:37 AM To: Lindsey, Joe <joe.lindsey@ed.gov> Cc: Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Minor, Robin <robin.minor@ed.gov>; Foss, Ian <lan.foss@ed.gov>; Hokanson, Jesse <jesse.hokanson@ed.gov>; Brickman, Michael <michael.brickman@ed.gov> Subject: RE: Data Request  Hi Robin, Thanks for the spread sheet on CSLD among DCEH students. When do you think you will have the other data requested available? Diane</michael.brickman@ed.gov></jesse.hokanson@ed.gov></lan.foss@ed.gov></robin.minor@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></joe.lindsey@ed.gov>
From: Jones, Diane Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 12:47 PM To: Joe Lindsey (joe.lindsey@ed.gov) <joe.lindsey@ed.gov> Cc: Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Minor, Robin <robin.minor@ed.gov>; Foss, Ian <lan.foss@ed.gov>; Hokanson, Jesse <jesse.hokanson@ed.gov>; Brickman, Michael (Michael.Brickman@ed.gov) <michael.brickman@ed.gov> Subject: Data Request  Hi Joe, We have a data request and for the Secretary's budget hearing, so we need quick turn-around. Please send what you</michael.brickman@ed.gov></jesse.hokanson@ed.gov></lan.foss@ed.gov></robin.minor@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></joe.lindsey@ed.gov>
are able to provide as soon as you can – I'd rather get it in bits and pieces than wait for the whole data request to be (b)(5)

work through the technical details and either get more technical details from me or provide me with the options for

I know this is a big request, so maybe we should get a group on the phone to talk through this so that I know what

additional questions need to be answered to do the data pull. Thanks, Diane

Diane Auer Jones Principal Deputy Under Secretary delegated the duties of Under Secretary 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

202-453-7333

#### Jones, Diane

From: Jones, Diane

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:40 PM

**To:** Mangold, Donna; Frola, Michael; Sikora, Tara; Powers, Michael E.; Arthur, Julie;

Finley, Steve

**Subject:** RE: Department of Education Submissions

(b)(5)

From: Mangold, Donna < Donna. Mangold@ed.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:35 PM

To: Jones, Diane < Diane. Jones@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael < Michael. Frola@ed.gov>; Sikora, Tara < Tara. Sikora@ed.gov>;

Powers, Michael E. <Michael.E.Powers@ed.gov>; Arthur, Julie <Julie.Arthur@ed.gov>; Finley, Steve

<Steve.Finley@ed.gov>

Subject: RE: Department of Education Submissions

(b)(5)

From: Jones, Diane < <u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:33 PM

To: Mangold, Donna < <a href="mailto:Donna.Mangold@ed.gov">Donna.Mangold@ed.gov">Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</a>; Frola, Michael < <a href="mailto:Michael.Frola@ed.gov">Michael.Frola@ed.gov</a>; Sikora, Tara

<a href="mailto:sikora@ed.gov">"> Powers, Michael E. < Michael E. < Michael E. Powers@ed.gov"> Arthur, Julie < Julie. Arthur@ed.gov</a> ; Finley,

Steve <<u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u>>

**Subject:** RE: Department of Education Submissions

(b)(5)

From: Mangold, Donna < Donna. Mangold@ed.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:28 PM

To: Jones, Diane <<u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u>>; Frola, Michael <<u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u>>; Sikora, Tara <<u>Tara.Sikora@ed.gov</u>>;

Powers, Michael E. < Michael. E. Powers@ed.gov >; Arthur, Julie < Julie. Arthur@ed.gov >; Finley, Steve

<<u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u>>

Subject: FW: Department of Education Submissions

Fyi from the receiver.

From: Mangold, Donna

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:27 PM

To: 'Camille Dottore' <camille@dottoreco.com>; bss@c-g-law.com; john.kresse@usdoj.gov; jwe@weadvocate.net;

Mark Dottore <mark@dottoreco.com>; mkw@weadvocate.net; Charlie Dottore <charlie@dottoreco.com>

Subject: RE: Department of Education Submissions

Just to be clear to all -- I did not request the "following documentation." I received calls yesterday from both Mark and then Charlie. I simply asked that if the receivership had a request to the Department, to please put it in writing with any back up.

1. There is not \$10Mil "owed" under the agreement -- we have been over and over on this issue. \$50M was the cap. The Department determined that after it released \$39M, no further releases would be made.

On the other issues I will forward your request for information to FSA.

From: Camille Dottore < camille@dottoreco.com >

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 5:54 PM

To: Mangold, Donna < Donna. Mangold@ed.gov >; bss@c-g-law.com; john.kresse@usdoj.gov; jwe@weadvocate.net;

Mark Dottore <mark@dottoreco.com>; mkw@weadvocate.net; Charlie Dottore <charlie@dottoreco.com>

Subject: Department of Education Submissions

Hello -

During a phone call with Donna Mangold Tuesday, March 3, 2020 she requested the following documentation:

1. The Department of Education (Diane Auer Jones, Principal Deputy under the Secretary) approved providing Dream Center Education Holdings release of \$50M from the Line of Credit (LOC) in order to teachout close 30 campus location beginning July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018 (see attachment 1). These campuses included 18 Art Institute, 9 Argosy locations and 3 South campuses.

Per the auditor, Knutte, the final audited submission exceeded \$53M in reimbursed costs; well over the \$50M cap that the Department of Education approved to assist the Dream Center Education Holdings to teach-out/close the campuses. The actual amount received in the bank was \$39,586,989 (see attachments 2 and 3). According to the agreement, there is **\$10,413,011** outstanding, in cash, still owed from the Department of Education before the \$50M cap was obtained.

2. Per the email from Donna Mangold (see attachment 4), dated February 10, 2019 to Mary Whitmer and James Ehrman at Whitmer & Ehrman LLC, regarding the closed school loan discharges for DCEH schools the below chart was provided based on a Status Report filed, which stated there was no information on the Department's claims. The chart below was provided in regards to the estimates for loans discharged through applications.

Borrowers that the Department <b>Estimates</b> are Eligible for the Applicable CSLD Window (look back to June 29, 2018)		Borrowers with Loans Discharged via a Closed School Discharge Application	
Borrower Count	Total Disbursed (in millions)	Borrower Count	Total Disbursed (in millions)
7,720	\$178.8	3,440	\$85.4

Additionally, it was stated that the current expectations on the closed school loan discharges does not include the estimates based on the Secretary's recent decision to further extending the look back period to January 20, 2018. The letter stated the DoE would have to update this information later.

We are requesting a detailed list of the students that make up the 7,720 borrowers, as well as their correlating loan amounts borrowed that make up the \$178.8 Million for our review. We are also requesting an explanation as to how the discharge borrower count (3,440) and correlating loan amount (\$85.4 Million) were determined.

**3.** Prior to Ai Las Vegas being placed on HCM2 the DoE had approved funds that were in the G5 account; however, AiLV was placed on HCM2 (and later closed altogether) before the DoE approved funds were drawn down; therefore the approved funds were never received (see attachment 5). Below is an overview of DoE approved funds we never received:

	\$
Total 17/18 DL Sub	3,464.00
	\$
Total 17/18 DL Unsub	1,979.00
	\$
Total 17/18 Pell	2,608.00
	\$
Total for 17/18	8,051.00

Total 18/19 Pell \$
359,312.00
Total 18/19 DL Sub \$
2,449.00
Total 18/19 DL Unsub \$
14,733.00
Total 18/19 DL Plus \$
12,137.00
Total for 18/19 \$
388,631.00
Grand Total \$
396,682.00

\*see reconciliation tab on DOE spreadsheet dated 9.30.19 for raw data (spreadsheet password is: AILV093019)

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything else you need from us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best, Camille Dottore (216)906-9505

Jo	nes	, Di	ane

Jones, Diane

Friday, April 3, 2020 1:54 PM

From:

Sent:

To:	Lindsey, Joe
Cc:	Brown, Mark; King, Robert; Slack, Emily; Minor, Robin; Goldstein, Barry; Hammond, Cynthia; Frola, Michael; Marini, Tara; Bellamy, Brittany
Subject:	RE: Teach-out students
That is a great app	proach. (b)(5)
(5)	
Thanks, Diane	
Sent: Friday, April To: Jones, Diane < Cc: Brown, Mark < Minor, Robin <rol <cynthia.hammo< td=""><td>e <joe.lindsey@ed.gov> 13, 2020 12:35 PM Diane.Jones@ed.gov&gt; Mark.Brown@ed.gov&gt;; King, Robert <robert.king@ed.gov>; Slack, Emily <emily.slack@ed.gov>; bin.Minor@ed.gov&gt;; Goldstein, Barry <barry.goldstein@ed.gov>; Hammond, Cynthia nd@ed.gov&gt;; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Marini, Tara <tara.marini@ed.gov>; Bellamy, .Bellamy@ed.gov&gt;</tara.marini@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></barry.goldstein@ed.gov></emily.slack@ed.gov></robert.king@ed.gov></joe.lindsey@ed.gov></td></cynthia.hammo<></rol 	e <joe.lindsey@ed.gov> 13, 2020 12:35 PM Diane.Jones@ed.gov&gt; Mark.Brown@ed.gov&gt;; King, Robert <robert.king@ed.gov>; Slack, Emily <emily.slack@ed.gov>; bin.Minor@ed.gov&gt;; Goldstein, Barry <barry.goldstein@ed.gov>; Hammond, Cynthia nd@ed.gov&gt;; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov>; Marini, Tara <tara.marini@ed.gov>; Bellamy, .Bellamy@ed.gov&gt;</tara.marini@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></barry.goldstein@ed.gov></emily.slack@ed.gov></robert.king@ed.gov></joe.lindsey@ed.gov>
	The FSA Data Request Team (DRT) met this morning to determine how to best address
your request (b)(5)	
0)(0)	

(b)(5)	In the
meantime, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns with our approach.	
Respectfully, Joe	
JOE L. LINDSEY, U.S. Department of Education Principal Deputy, Chief Operating Officer Office of Federal Student Aid	
From: Jones, Diane < <u>Diane.Jones@ed.gov</u> > Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 9:32 AM	
<b>To:</b> Lindsey, Joe < <u>joe.lindsey@ed.gov</u> >; Goldstein, Barry < <u>Barry.Goldstein@ed.gov</u> >; Minor, Robin	
< <u>Robin.Minor@ed.gov</u> >; Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> >	
Cc: Brown, Mark < Mark.Brown@ed.gov >	
Subject: Teach-out students	
Good morning,	
(b)(5)	

Thanks for your help with this, Diane

Diane Auer Jones Principal Deputy Under Secretary delegated the duties of Under Secretary 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

202-453-7333

Sawyer, Tammi

From:	Sawyer, Tammi
Sent:	Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:28 AM
To:	Mangold, Donna
Cc:	Bounds, Herman; Frola, Michael; Arthur, Julie; Finley, Steve; Powers, Michael E.; Goers, Kelli
Subject:	RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION RE: Question regarding Changes of Ownership - Relationship to Teach-out
Ok, (b)(5)	
Thank you for yo	ur input.
Tammi	
<b>Sent:</b> Tuesday, A <b>To:</b> Sawyer, Tamr <b>Cc:</b> Bounds, Hern <julie.arthur@ed Goers, Kelli <kelli.< th=""><th>EY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION RE: Question regarding Changes of Ownership -</th></kelli.<></julie.arthur@ed 	EY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION RE: Question regarding Changes of Ownership -
<b>Sent:</b> Monday, A <b>To:</b> Mangold, Doi <b>Cc:</b> Bounds, Hern	mmi < Tammi.Sawyer@ed.gov > pril 6, 2020 3:30 PM nna < Donna.Mangold@ed.gov > nan < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov > estion regarding Changes of Ownership - Relationship to Teach-out
(b)(5)	
Please let me kno	······································

Thank you in advance for your help.

From: Anthea Sweeney <a href="mailto:sweeney@hlcommission.org">asweeney@hlcommission.org</a>

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 1:00 PM

To: Sawyer, Tammi < <a href="mailto:Tammi.Sawyer@ed.gov">Tammi.Sawyer@ed.gov</a>>

Subject: Question regarding Changes of Ownership - Relationship to Teach-out

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Tammi,

I have an urgent question for you that has been broached a number of times, in various ways, by institutions making informal inquiries of HLC liaisons. In some cases, the questions conflate scenarios described as teach-outs with net results we would identify as a merger. I'd like to get some clarity from FSA and its Change of Control team related to the appropriate treatment of these scenarios.

In some cases, we have had internal dialogue about scenarios that may have the appearance of a Teachout based on an institution's description, but which may, in terms of net results, avoid appropriate review and approval for a merger, change of ownership or other affiliation that is most properly reviewed using HLC's Change of Control, Structure or Organization policy.

Consider the following hypothetical which is representative of the kinds of facts increasingly shared with the Commission:

A hypothetical University, let's name it "Closing University" intends to close and has identified a single potential teach-out partner that would assist their students after a defined closure date. Assume that this is a planned and orderly closure. The prospective teach-out partner, let's name it "Partner University", has a number of programs that are reasonably similar to "Closing University's," but there are some programs "Closing" offers that "Partner" doesn't offer at all, and for which "Partner" would need to seek prior substantive change approval. Because of the long timeline, there is sufficient time for Partner to seek and receive such substantive change approval from the accreditor long before the projected closure date. The parties further envision that "Partner University" could lease space at the Closing University in the future and continue operating that site as an Additional Location. Partner would also require prior substantive change approval for the new Additional Location and is prepared to do that given the timeline. The parties in this scenario insist that no financial transaction will occur. No other partner institutions are sought to assist Closing University with the teach-out other than institutions who may serve as transfer options more generally. "Closing" and "Partner" insist this is nothing other than a Teach-Out.

With that backgroun in mind, add any combination of following facts:

- 1) Partner will hire virtually all of Closing's faculty.
- 2) Partner will "take over" and/or acquire all of Closing's curriculum and/or intellectual property.
- 3) Partner will purchase all of Closing's real estate (let's assume for some nominal price, say \$1).
- 4) Partner will continue to operate the Additional Location permanently beyond the life of the teach-out.
- 5) Closing institution will cease to exist as a separately accredited entity beyond its closure date with Partner essentially

Here are my questions:

• Would the Department view these institutions' plans as merely a Teachout, or a change in

ownership/merger that should be reviewed under Change of Control policy, or both?

- What if any factors, from the Department's perspective, would trigger a Change of Control review for what, at first blush, is presented as a Teach-out scenario?
- Aside from the hypothetical, has FSA's Change of Control Task Force encountered any "close calls," where it determined that an institution had described a scenario that actually represented a change of ownership, rather than (or perhaps in addition to) a teachout?
- Without naming those close calls, what key factors would the Taskforce advise accreditors to look out for as outcome determinative in such cases?

Given the potential increase of bona fide closures in the era of COVID-19, and a concern that institutions wishing to avoid the regulatory rigor attendant to a Change of Control review may pass unnoticed at this time, if they present a context consistent with an orderly Teachout (as described above), or an abrupt closure (where miraculously only one "Teach-out Partner" is available). Yet, when the dust clears, a merger occurred without regulatory review. I should add that HLC's policy and review process for Teach-Outs is drastically different from its review process for Change of Control. While Teach-Out largely involves a review of documentation only, and can be approved by HLC's Institutional Actions Council (HLC's secondary decisionmaking body), only the HLC Board can approve a Change of Control. A merger also generally involves an onsite evaluation.

I would be very grateful for a response no later than first thing next Tuesday.

## Thank you,

Anthea M. Sweeney, J.D., Ed.D.

Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

Higher Learning Commission

Office: 312.263.0456, ext. 128 | Direct: 312.881.8128

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asweeney@hlcommission.org | hlcommission.org

https://www.hlcommission.org/General/coronavirus-updates.html

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## Mangold, Donna

From:	Mangold, Donna
Sent:	Monday, August 3, 2020 3:40 PM
To:	Frola, Michael; Bounds, Herman
Cc:	Karas, Karen; Finley, Steve
Subject:	ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)
Attachments:	EDMC Action Letter 11-16-17.pdf; HLC - Public Disclosure Notice 1.20.18.pdf; HLC - Public Dislosure Notice 1.20.18 (Feb version).pdf
	Public Dislosure Notice 1.20.18 (Feb Version).pui
Herman – fyi – (b)(5)	
(b)(5)	
Mike and Herman	,
(b)(5)	
(0)(3)	

Thanks.



November 16, 2017

#### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Elden Monday, Interim President The Art Institute of Colorado 1200 Lincoln St. Denver, CO 80203

Josh Pond, President Illinois Institute of Art 350 N. Orleans St. Suite 136 Chicago, IL 60654

Brent Richardson Chief Executive Officer Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC 7135 East Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ 85251

Dear President Monday, President Pond, and Mr. Richardson:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission ("HLC" or "the Commission") Board of Trustees ("the Board") concerning Illinois Institute of Art ("IIA") and the Art Institute of Colorado ("AIC") ("the Institutes" or "the institutions," collectively). During its meeting on November 2-3, 2017, the Board voted to approve the application for Change of Control, Structure, or Organization wherein the Dream Center Foundation ("DCF"), through Dream Center Education Holdings LLC ("DCEH" or "the buyers") and related intermediaries, acquires certain assets currently held by Education Management Corporation ("EDMC"), including the assets of the Institutes; however, this approval is subject to the requirement of Change of Control Candidacy Status. The requirements of Change of Control Candidacy Status are outlined below. In taking this action, the Board considered materials submitted to the Commission including: the Change of Control, Structure or Organization application, the Summary Report and its attachments, the additional information provided by the Institutes throughout the review process, and the Institutes' responses to the Summary Report.

As noted under policy, the Commission considers five factors in determining whether to approve a requested Change of Control, Structure, or Organization. It is the applying institution's burden, in its request and submission of related information, to demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the transaction meets these five factors and to resolve any concerns or ambiguities regarding the transaction and its impact on the institution and its ability to meet Commission

requirements. The Board found that the Institutes did not demonstrate that the five approval factors were met without issue, as outlined in its findings below, but found that the Institutes demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Eligibility Requirements to be considered for pre-accreditation status identified as "Change of Control Candidate for Accreditation," during which time each Institute can rebuild its full compliance with all the Eligibility Requirements and Criteria for Accreditation and can develop evidence that each Institute is likely to be operationally and academically successful in the future.

The conditions set forth by the Board in its approval of the application subject to Change of Control Candidate for Accreditation are as follows:

The institutions undergo a period of candidacy known as a Change of Control Candidacy that is effective as of the date of the close of the transaction; the period of candidacy may be as short as six months but shall not exceed the maximum period of four years for candidacy.

The institutions submit an interim report every 90 days following the date of the consummation of the transaction until their next comprehensive evaluations on the following topics:

- Current term enrollment at the institutions. This should include the number of full- and part-time students, as well as comparisons to planned enrollment numbers. The institutions should also provide revised enrollment projections based on enrollments at the time of submission;
- Quarterly financials, to include a balance sheet and cash flow statement for DCF, DCEH and each institution, as a means to ensure adequate operating resources at each entity and at the institutions;
- Information regarding any complaints received by DCF, DCEH or any of the institutions;
- Information regarding any governmental investigation, enforcement actions, settlements, etc. involving DCF, DCEH, its related service provider Dream Center Education Management, ("DCEM"), or any of the institutions;
- Information regarding any stockholder, student, or consumer protection litigation, settlement, judgment, etc. involving DCF, DCEH, DCEM or any of the institutions;
- Information regarding reductions in faculty and/or staff at any of the institutions;
- Updated student retention and completion measures for each of the institutions;
- Copies of any information sent to the U.S. Department of Education ("USDE"), including any information sent in response to the USDE's September 11, 2017 letter (or any updates to that letter); and
- An update on the activities and findings of the Settlement Administrator through 2018, and on findings from audit processes conducted by an independent thirdparty entity acceptable to HLC subsequently implemented after the conclusion of the work of the Settlement Administrator.

The institutions submit separate Eligibility Filings no later than February 1, 2018, providing detailed documentation that each institution meets the Eligibility Requirements

and Assumed Practices, as well as a highly detailed plan with timelines, action steps, and personnel assignments to remedy issues related to Core Components 1.D, regarding commitment to the public good; 2.A, regarding integrity and ethical behavior; 2.B, regarding public disclosure and transparency; 2.C, regarding the autonomy of board governance; 4.A, regarding improving program outcomes; 5.A, regarding financial resources; and 5.C, regarding planning, with specific focus on enrollment and financial planning. The outcome of this process shall be reported to the HLC Board of Trustees at its spring 2018 meeting.

The institutions host a visit within six months of the transaction date, as required by HLC policy and federal regulation, focused on ascertaining the appropriateness of the approval and the institutions' compliance with any commitments made in the Change of Control application and with the Eligibility Requirements and the Criteria for Accreditation, with specific focus on Core Component 2.C, as it relates to the institutions incorporating in the state of Arizona, and Eligibility Requirements #3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16 and 18.

The institutions host a focused visit no later than June 2019, to include a visit to the Dream Center Foundation and Dream Center Education Holdings, on the following topics:

- Core Component 1.D:
  - The institutions should provide evidence that the missions of the institutions demonstrate a commitment to public good. Specifically, that the institutions' operations align to the pursuit of the stated missions in terms of recruiting, marketing, advertising, and retention.
- Core Component 2.A:
  - The institutions should demonstrate that they possess effective policies and procedures for assuring integrity and transparency.
  - DCEH and the institutions should provide evidence that the parent company and the institutions are continuing to perform voluntarily the obligations of the Consent Agreement, as assured by DCEH to the Higher Learning Commission in writing.
- Core Component 2.B:
  - DCEH and the institutions must demonstrate that policies and procedures following the Consent Judgment have been fully implemented and are effective in ensuring the proper training and oversight of personnel.
- Core Component 2.C:
  - Evidence that the DCF, DCEH, DCEM and the Art Institutes organizations, as well as related corporations, demonstrate that they have organizational documents and have engaged in a pattern of behavior that indicates the respective boards of the institutions have been able to engage in appropriately autonomous oversight of their institutions.
- Core Component 4.A:
  - Evidence that the institutions have engaged in effective planning processes to address programs that have failed the USDE's gainful employment requirements (when those requirements were still applicable), as well as those that are "in the zone." The institutions should also provide any plans that have been implemented to improve program outcomes.

# • Core Component 5.A:

 Evidence that the institutions have increased enrollments to the levels set forth in the application for Change of Control, Structure, or Organization. This should include any revised budgetary projections and evidence of when the institutions intend to achieve balanced budgets.

# • Core Component 5.C:

• The institutions should provide any revised plans or projections that occur following consummation of the transaction.

If at the time of the second focused evaluation, the institutions are able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that they meet the Eligibility Requirements, Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices without concerns, the Board shall reinstate accreditation and place the institutions on the Standard Pathway and identify the date of the next comprehensive evaluation, which shall be in no more than five years from the date of this action.

The Board will receive and review the Eligibility Filing, related staff comments, and the report of the first focused visit team to determine whether to continue the Change of Control Candidacy status. If the Eligibility Filing and focused evaluation does not provide clear, convincing and complete evidence of each institution meeting each Eligibility Requirement and of making substantial progress towards meeting the Criteria for Accreditation in the maximum period allotted for such Change of Control Candidacy as indicated in this letter, the Board may withdraw Change of Control Candidate for Accreditation status at its June 2018 meeting.

The Board provided the Institutes and the buyers with fourteen days from the date of receipt of this action letter to accept these conditions in writing. If the institutions and the buyers do not accept these conditions in writing within fourteen days, the approval of the Board will become null and void, and the institutions will need to submit a new application for Change of Control, Structure, or Organization if they choose to proceed with this transaction or another transaction in the future. In that event, the Institutes will remain accredited institutions. However, if the Institutes proceed with the Change of Control, Structure or Organization without Commission approval, the Commission Board of Trustees has the authority to withdraw accreditation.

Assuming acceptance of these conditions, the Institutes and buyers must provide written notice of the closing date within 24 hours after the transaction has closed. The Institutes are also obligated to notify the Commission prior to closing if any of the material terms of this transaction have changed or appear likely to change. By Commission policy the closing must take place within no more than thirty days from the date of the Board's approval. If there is any delay such that the transaction cannot close within this time frame, the Institutes must notify the Commission as soon as possible so alternate arrangements can be identified to ensure that the Board's approval remains in effect.

The Board based its action on the following findings made in regard to the Institutes:

In reference to the first, second, and fourth approval factors and, related to the continuity of the institutions accredited by the Commission and sufficiency of financial support for

the transaction, the institutions and the buyers have provided reasonable evidence that these factors have been met.

In reference to the third approval factor, the substantial likelihood that following consummation of the transaction the institutions will meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation, with specific reference to governance, mission, programs, disclosures, administration, policies and procedures, finances, and integrity, the institutions and the buyers have provided reasonable evidence that this factor is met, although the following Criteria for Accreditation are Met with Concerns:

- Criterion One, Core Component 1.D: "The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good," for the following reasons:
  - Neither institution has demonstrated evidence that its underlying operations, in addition to its tax status, will be transformed to reflect a non-profit mission;
  - Neither institution has demonstrated significant planning required to undertake a mission that includes the responsibility of educating a potentially very different student population represented by the Dream Center clientele; and
  - O The buyers have not provided evidence that the institutions' educational purposes will take primacy over contributing to a related or parent organization, which will be struggling in its initial years to improve the enrollment and financial wherewithal of a large number of institutions purchased from EDMC.
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A: "The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff," for the following reason:
  - Although each institution is making changes to procedures specifically identified in the November 2015 Consent Judgment, neither institution has yet established a long-term track record of integrity in its auxiliary functions.
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.B: "The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public with regard to its programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, control, and accreditation relationships," for the following reasons:
  - Changes being made by the institutions to ensure transparency, particularly
    with students, are recent in nature and have yet to fully penetrate the complex
    organizational structure of which the institutions are a part; and
  - Given the replication of that operational structure and the continuity of personnel following the transaction, the potential for continuing challenges is of concern.
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C: "The governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity," for the following reasons:
  - O There remain questions about how the governance of DCEH, its related service provider Dream Center Education Management, and the Art Institutes will take place after the transaction and how that governance will affect the governance of the AIC and IIA, and the mere replication of the EDMC corporate structure with new non-profit corporations does not resolve the

- question of how these new corporations will function in the future to assure autonomy and governance in the best interest of the institutions;
- An apparent conflict of interest exists owing to an investment by the DCEH CEO of 10% in the purchase price for which limited documentation exists;
   and
- No evidence was provided indicating that either institution's board had yet engaged in significant consideration of the role that typifies non-profit boards.
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A: "The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs," for the following reasons:
  - Neither institution has demonstrated that improvements have been made to academic programs identified since January 2017 by the USDE as having poor outcomes, or that such programs have been eliminated; and
  - The risk of harm to students admitted to such programs absent such improvement or elimination is of concern, regardless of the institutions' taxstatus or whether they are subject to gainful employment regulations.
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.A: "The institution's resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future," for the following reasons:
  - O Despite the adoption of certain cost-reducing and related measures, the impact of which are yet to be determined, the ability of each institution to sustain its resource base and improve enrollment beyond 2019 depends on the occurrence of several contingencies, most of which are assumptions tied to the institutions' change in tax status, and none of which are guaranteed;
  - O The ability of the buyers to provide the cash flow infusions necessary to sustain the institutions over the next five years are also linked to assumptions related to the institutions' change in tax status and the long-term debt taken on by DCEH and DCF in addition to the debt acquired for the purchase price; and
  - O Although the buyers are expected to have \$35 million in cash at closing (based on debt as noted above), these funds are intended to support multiple transactions within Argosy University, South University and the Art Institutes, and the potential need for and access to additional debt financing on the part of the buyers is of concern.
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C: "The institution engages in systematic and integrated planning," for the following reasons:
  - Neither institution has demonstrated that the impacts of the transaction have been accounted for in their strategic planning; and
  - o IIA's strategic planning process is still in the process of maturing.

In reference to the fifth approval factor, the experience of the buyers, administration, and board with higher education, the officers (CEO and CDO) of the buyers have some experience in higher education but do not have any experience as chief officers of a large system of non-profit institutions or with the specific challenges pertinent to EDMC institutions, including challenges related to marketing and recruitment policies, governance, administration, and student outcomes across institutions with many campuses and programs operating across the United States.

The Board action, if the conditions are accepted by the Institutes and the buyers, resulted in changes to the affiliation of the Institutes. These changes will be reflected on the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. Some of the information on that document, such as the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations and published on its website within thirty days of any action. The summary will include HLC Board action regarding the Institutes. The Commission will also simultaneously inform the U.S. Department of Education of this action by copy of this letter. As further explained in policy, HLC may publish a Public Statement regarding this action and the transaction following the institutions' and the buyer's decision of whether to accept the conditions outlined above. Please note that any public announcement by the buyers about this action must include the information that any approval provided by the Commission is subject to the condition of the buyers accepting Change of Control candidacy for not less than six months up to a maximum of four years.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact Dr. Anthea Sweeney.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gellman-Danley

Barnara German Davley

President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Illinois Institute of Art

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Art Institute of Colorado

Deann Grossi, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Illinois Institute of Art

Ben Yohe, Director of General Education, the Art Institute of Colorado

Diane Duffy, Interim Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education

Stephanie Bernoteit, Senior Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Evaluation team members

Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission

Karen Peterson Solinski, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission

Michael Frola, Division Director, Multi-Regional and Foreign Schools Participation Division, U.S. Department of Education

Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, U.S. Department of Education



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Public Disclosure:
Illinois Institute of Art and
Art Institute of Colorado
From "Accredited" to "Candidate"
Effective: January 20, 2018

The Illinois Institute of Art located in Chicago, Illinois, and the Art Institute of Colorado located in Denver, Colorado, have transitioned to being a candidate for accreditation after previously being accredited. The Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees voted to impose "Change of Control-Candidacy" on the Institutes as of the January 20 close of their sale by Education Management Corp. to the Dream Center Foundation through Dream Center Education Holdings.

This new status also applies to the Illinois Institute of Art campus in Schaumburg and its Art Institute of Michigan campus in Novi, Michigan.

In spring 2017 EDMC requested approval of a Change of Control seeking the extension of the accreditation of these institutions after their proposed sale to the Dream Center Foundation. During its review process of the Change of Control, HLC evaluated the potential for the institutions to continue to ensure a quality education to students after the change of ownership took place. The period of Change of Control-Candidacy status lasts from a minimum of six months to a maximum of four years. During candidacy status, an institution is not accredited but holds a recognized status with HLC indicating the institution meets the standards for candidacy.

## What This Means for Students

Students taking classes or graduating during the candidacy period should know that their courses or degrees are not accredited by HLC and may not be accepted in transfer to other colleges and universities or recognized by prospective employers. Institute courses completed and degrees earning prior to this January 20, 2018, change of status remain accredited. In most cases, other institutions of higher education will accept those credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program as they were earned during an HLC accreditation period.

All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Students should contact any institution they plan to attend in the future so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

## Next Steps

HLC requires that the Institutes provide proper advisement and accommodations to students in light of this action, which may include, if necessary, assisting students with financial accommodations or transfer arrangements if requested.

Higher Learning Commission Public Disclosure Notice Illinois Institute of Art/Art Institute of Colorado/Page 2

Dream Center Education Holdings and Dream Center Foundation are required to submit a report to HLC every 90 days detailing quarterly financials to assess adequate operating resources at each entity and both Institutes.

The Institutes will each submit Eligibility Filings no later than March 1, 2018 providing documentation that each institution meets the HLC Eligibility Requirements and Assumed Practices. The Institutes will also host a campus visit within six months of the transaction date as required by HLC policy and regulation. The HLC Board will consider reinstatement of Accredited status at a future meeting.

## About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Questions? Contact info@hlcommission.org or call 312.263.0456.



230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7:500 Chicago, IL 60604:1411 312.263.0456 | 800.621.7440 Fax: 312.263.7462 | hlcommission.org

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#### What This Means for Students

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All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Students should contact any institution they plan to attend in the future so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

## Next Steps

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Higher Learning Commission Public Disclosure Notice Illinois Institute of Art/Art Institute of Colorado/Page 2

Dream Center Education Holdings and Dream Center Foundation are required to submit a report to HLC every 90 days detailing quarterly financials to assess adequate operating resources at each entity and both Institutes.

The Institutes will undergo a campus visit within six months of the transaction closing, as required by policy and federal regulation, and a second visit by June 2019. If at the time of the visits, the Institutes demonstrate compliance with HLC standards, accreditation may be reinstated by the HLC Board.

## About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Questions? Contact info@hlcommission.org or call 312.263.0456.

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From:	Frola, Michael				
Sent:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:36 PM				
To:	Mangold, Donna; Bounds, Herman				
Cc:	Finley, Steve; Karas, Karen				
Subject:	RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)				
Attachments:	HLC Action Letter for EDMC Institutions.msg; HLC Action Letter for EDMC Institutions.msg				
Hi Donna,					
(b)(5)					
Thanks,					
Mike					
Sent: Tuesday, Augus To: Bounds, Herman < Cc: Finley, Steve <stev< th=""><th>na <donna.mangold@ed.gov> it 11, 2020 1:05 PM <herman.bounds@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov> ve.Finley@ed.gov&gt;; Karas, Karen <karen.karas@ed.gov> EY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)</karen.karas@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></herman.bounds@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov></th></stev<>	na <donna.mangold@ed.gov> it 11, 2020 1:05 PM <herman.bounds@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov> ve.Finley@ed.gov&gt;; Karas, Karen <karen.karas@ed.gov> EY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)</karen.karas@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov></herman.bounds@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov>				
Cc: Finley, Steve < Stev					
Cc: Karas, Karen < Kare Subject: ATTORNEY C	st 3, 2020 3:40 PM ichael.Frola@ed.gov>; Bounds, Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov> en.Karas@ed.gov>; Finley, Steve < Steve.Finley@ed.gov> LIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)				
Herman – fyi – ( <sup>(b</sup>	))(5)				

(b)(5)			
Mike and Herman,			
(b)(5)			

Thanks.

#### Lisa Noack

From: Lisa Noack

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 9:27 AM **To:** Frola, Michael; Bounds, Herman

Subject: HLC Action Letter for EDMC Institutions

Attachments: EDMC Action Letter 1-12-18.pdf

On January 9, 2018, the HLC Board of Trustees reaffirmed its approval of the Illinois Institute of Art's and the Art Institute of Colorado's application for Change of Control, Structure or Organization, wherein certain assets of Education Management Corporation (including the assets of the Institutes) are acquired by Dream Center Education Holdings and related intermediaries, which was conditioned on the parties closing the transaction in mid-January 2018. The Action Letter detailing this reaffirmation is attached. HLC received notification that the transaction closing occurred on January 20, 2018, with the institutions having accepted all conditions stated in the Board's November 2017 Action Letter, as reiterated by the attached.

Best regards,

Lisa

---

Lisa Noack Assistant to the President & Board Higher Learning Commission 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 Chicago, IL 60604-1411

Voice: (312) 263-0456 x.108 / Fax: (312) 263-3565

E-mail: <a href="mailto:lnoack@hlcommission.org">lnoack@hlcommission.org</a>

The information contained in this communication is confidential and intended only for the use of the recipient named above, and may be legally privileged and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please resend it to the sender and delete the original message and copy of it from your computer system. Opinions, conclusions and other information in this message that do not relate to our official business should be understood as neither given nor endorsed by the organization.



January 12, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Elden Monday, Interim President The Art Institute of Colorado 1200 Lincoln St. Denver, CO 80203

Josh Pond, President Illinois Institute of Art 350 N. Orleans St. Suite 136 Chicago, IL 60654

Brent Richardson Chief Executive Officer Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC 7135 East Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ 85251

Dear President Monday, President Pond, and Mr. Richardson:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission ("HLC" or "the Commission") Board of Trustees ("the Board") concerning Illinois Institute of Art ("IIA") and the Art Institute of Colorado ("AIC") ("the Institutes" or "the institutions," collectively). Through action taken via mail ballot on January 9, 2018, the Board voted to reaffirm the extension of status related to its approval of the institutions' application for Change of Control, Structure, or Organization wherein the Dream Center Foundation ("DCF"), through Dream Center Education Holdings LLC ("DCEH" or "the buyers") and related intermediaries, acquires certain assets currently held by Education Management Corporation ("EDMC"), including the assets of the Institutes.

In taking this action, the institutions are subject to the same terms and requirements outlined in the Board's original action letter issued in November 2017, with the sole exception of the following non-substantive modification:

The institutions submit an interim report every 90 days following the date of the consummation of the transaction until their next comprehensive evaluations on the following topics:

• ..

 Quarterly financials, to include a balance sheet and cash flow statement for DCF, DCEH and each institution, as a means to ensure adequate operating resources at each entity and at the institutions will be provided within 45 days of the close of the quarter" (added emphasis highlights the modification).

In addition, it should be noted that any required reporting will include Dream Center Education Holdings and Dream Center Education Management but will not include any specific institutions accredited by other institutional accreditors.

As you know, this approval is specifically subject to a Change of Control Candidacy, which is effective immediately upon the closing of the transaction. Commission policy INST.B.30.020, Obligations of Affiliation, states that an institution "portrays its accreditation status with the Commission clearly to the public." Under this policy, the Commission anticipates that the institutions have properly notified their students of the acceptance of the Board's condition of Change of Control Candidacy and have clearly stated its impact on current and prospective students once the transaction closes. Similarly, the Commission expects that the institutions have also provided proper advisement and accommodations to students in light of this action, which may include, if necessary, assisting students with financial accommodations or transfer if they so request. I ask that you please provide copies of all disclosures and notifications related to the institutions' acceptance of Change of Control Candidacy to the HLC Staff Liaison for the institutions, Dr. Anthea Sweeney.

Please send the Commission written notice of the closing date within 24 hours after the transaction has closed. Once confirmation of the transaction closing is received, the institutions will enter Change of Control Candidacy status, which will be effective on the date of the close of the transaction, and the Commission will issue a Public Disclosure Notice and provide copies of this action letter to the various external entities identified on this letter. As a reminder, any public announcement by the buyers about this action must include the information that any approval provided by the Commission was subject to the condition of the buyers accepting Change of Control Candidacy status for not less than six months up to a maximum of four years, and that the buyers have accepted the condition.

You are also obligated to notify the Commission prior to closing if any of the material terms of this transaction have changed or appear likely to change. By Commission policy the closing must take place within no more than thirty days from the date of the Board's approval. If there is any delay such that the transaction cannot close within this time frame, you must notify the Commission as soon as possible.

Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations and published on its website within thirty days of any action. The summary will include HLC Board action regarding the Institutes.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. Please contact Dr. Sweeney if you have questions about any of the information in this letter.

Si	n	ce	re	el	у,	,

(b)(6)			

Barbara Gellman-Danley President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Illinois Institute of Art
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Art Institute of Colorado
Deann Grossi, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Illinois Institute of Art
Ben Yohe, Director of General Education, the Art Institute of Colorado
Diane Duffy, Interim Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education
Stephanie Bernoteit, Senior Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of
Higher Education

Evaluation team members

Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission

Karen Peterson Solinski, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission

Michael Frola, Division Director, Multi-Regional and Foreign Schools Participation Division, U.S. Department of Education

Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, U.S. Department of Education

# Lisa Noack

From: Lisa Noack

Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:12 PM

**To:** Frola, Michael; Bounds, Herman

Subject: HLC Action Letter for EDMC Institutions

Attachments: EDMC Action Letter 11-16-17.pdf

Please see attached your copies of an action letter.

Best regards,

Lisa

--

Lisa Noack Assistant to the President & Board Higher Learning Commission 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411

Voice: (312) 263-0456 x108 / Fax: (312) 263-3565

Email: Inoack@hlcommission.org

The information contained in this communication is confidential and intended only for the use of the recipient named above, and may be legally privileged and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please resend it to the sender and delete the original message and copy of it from your computer system. Opinions, conclusions and other information in this message that do not relate to our official business should be understood as neither given nor endorsed by the organization.



November 16, 2017

#### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Elden Monday, Interim President The Art Institute of Colorado 1200 Lincoln St. Denver, CO 80203

Josh Pond, President Illinois Institute of Art 350 N. Orleans St. Suite 136 Chicago, IL 60654

Brent Richardson Chief Executive Officer Dream Center Education Holdings, LLC 7135 East Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ 85251

Dear President Monday, President Pond, and Mr. Richardson:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission ("HLC" or "the Commission") Board of Trustees ("the Board") concerning Illinois Institute of Art ("IIA") and the Art Institute of Colorado ("AIC") ("the Institutes" or "the institutions," collectively). During its meeting on November 2-3, 2017, the Board voted to approve the application for Change of Control, Structure, or Organization wherein the Dream Center Foundation ("DCF"), through Dream Center Education Holdings LLC ("DCEH" or "the buyers") and related intermediaries, acquires certain assets currently held by Education Management Corporation ("EDMC"), including the assets of the Institutes; however, this approval is subject to the requirement of Change of Control Candidacy Status. The requirements of Change of Control Candidacy Status are outlined below. In taking this action, the Board considered materials submitted to the Commission including: the Change of Control, Structure or Organization application, the Summary Report and its attachments, the additional information provided by the Institutes throughout the review process, and the Institutes' responses to the Summary Report.

As noted under policy, the Commission considers five factors in determining whether to approve a requested Change of Control, Structure, or Organization. It is the applying institution's burden, in its request and submission of related information, to demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the transaction meets these five factors and to resolve any concerns or ambiguities regarding the transaction and its impact on the institution and its ability to meet Commission

requirements. The Board found that the Institutes did not demonstrate that the five approval factors were met without issue, as outlined in its findings below, but found that the Institutes demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Eligibility Requirements to be considered for pre-accreditation status identified as "Change of Control Candidate for Accreditation," during which time each Institute can rebuild its full compliance with all the Eligibility Requirements and Criteria for Accreditation and can develop evidence that each Institute is likely to be operationally and academically successful in the future.

The conditions set forth by the Board in its approval of the application subject to Change of Control Candidate for Accreditation are as follows:

The institutions undergo a period of candidacy known as a Change of Control Candidacy that is effective as of the date of the close of the transaction; the period of candidacy may be as short as six months but shall not exceed the maximum period of four years for candidacy.

The institutions submit an interim report every 90 days following the date of the consummation of the transaction until their next comprehensive evaluations on the following topics:

- Current term enrollment at the institutions. This should include the number of full- and part-time students, as well as comparisons to planned enrollment numbers. The institutions should also provide revised enrollment projections based on enrollments at the time of submission;
- Quarterly financials, to include a balance sheet and cash flow statement for DCF, DCEH and each institution, as a means to ensure adequate operating resources at each entity and at the institutions;
- Information regarding any complaints received by DCF, DCEH or any of the institutions;
- Information regarding any governmental investigation, enforcement actions, settlements, etc. involving DCF, DCEH, its related service provider Dream Center Education Management, ("DCEM"), or any of the institutions;
- Information regarding any stockholder, student, or consumer protection litigation, settlement, judgment, etc. involving DCF, DCEH, DCEM or any of the institutions;
- Information regarding reductions in faculty and/or staff at any of the institutions;
- Updated student retention and completion measures for each of the institutions;
- Copies of any information sent to the U.S. Department of Education ("USDE"), including any information sent in response to the USDE's September 11, 2017 letter (or any updates to that letter); and
- An update on the activities and findings of the Settlement Administrator through 2018, and on findings from audit processes conducted by an independent thirdparty entity acceptable to HLC subsequently implemented after the conclusion of the work of the Settlement Administrator.

The institutions submit separate Eligibility Filings no later than February 1, 2018, providing detailed documentation that each institution meets the Eligibility Requirements

and Assumed Practices, as well as a highly detailed plan with timelines, action steps, and personnel assignments to remedy issues related to Core Components 1.D, regarding commitment to the public good; 2.A, regarding integrity and ethical behavior; 2.B, regarding public disclosure and transparency; 2.C, regarding the autonomy of board governance; 4.A, regarding improving program outcomes; 5.A, regarding financial resources; and 5.C, regarding planning, with specific focus on enrollment and financial planning. The outcome of this process shall be reported to the HLC Board of Trustees at its spring 2018 meeting.

The institutions host a visit within six months of the transaction date, as required by HLC policy and federal regulation, focused on ascertaining the appropriateness of the approval and the institutions' compliance with any commitments made in the Change of Control application and with the Eligibility Requirements and the Criteria for Accreditation, with specific focus on Core Component 2.C, as it relates to the institutions incorporating in the state of Arizona, and Eligibility Requirements #3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16 and 18.

The institutions host a focused visit no later than June 2019, to include a visit to the Dream Center Foundation and Dream Center Education Holdings, on the following topics:

- Core Component 1.D:
  - The institutions should provide evidence that the missions of the institutions demonstrate a commitment to public good. Specifically, that the institutions' operations align to the pursuit of the stated missions in terms of recruiting, marketing, advertising, and retention.
- Core Component 2.A:
  - The institutions should demonstrate that they possess effective policies and procedures for assuring integrity and transparency.
  - DCEH and the institutions should provide evidence that the parent company and the institutions are continuing to perform voluntarily the obligations of the Consent Agreement, as assured by DCEH to the Higher Learning Commission in writing.
- Core Component 2.B:
  - DCEH and the institutions must demonstrate that policies and procedures following the Consent Judgment have been fully implemented and are effective in ensuring the proper training and oversight of personnel.
- Core Component 2.C:
  - Evidence that the DCF, DCEH, DCEM and the Art Institutes organizations, as well as related corporations, demonstrate that they have organizational documents and have engaged in a pattern of behavior that indicates the respective boards of the institutions have been able to engage in appropriately autonomous oversight of their institutions.
- Core Component 4.A:
  - Evidence that the institutions have engaged in effective planning processes to address programs that have failed the USDE's gainful employment requirements (when those requirements were still applicable), as well as those that are "in the zone." The institutions should also provide any plans that have been implemented to improve program outcomes.

# • Core Component 5.A:

 Evidence that the institutions have increased enrollments to the levels set forth in the application for Change of Control, Structure, or Organization. This should include any revised budgetary projections and evidence of when the institutions intend to achieve balanced budgets.

# • Core Component 5.C:

• The institutions should provide any revised plans or projections that occur following consummation of the transaction.

If at the time of the second focused evaluation, the institutions are able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that they meet the Eligibility Requirements, Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices without concerns, the Board shall reinstate accreditation and place the institutions on the Standard Pathway and identify the date of the next comprehensive evaluation, which shall be in no more than five years from the date of this action.

The Board will receive and review the Eligibility Filing, related staff comments, and the report of the first focused visit team to determine whether to continue the Change of Control Candidacy status. If the Eligibility Filing and focused evaluation does not provide clear, convincing and complete evidence of each institution meeting each Eligibility Requirement and of making substantial progress towards meeting the Criteria for Accreditation in the maximum period allotted for such Change of Control Candidacy as indicated in this letter, the Board may withdraw Change of Control Candidate for Accreditation status at its June 2018 meeting.

The Board provided the Institutes and the buyers with fourteen days from the date of receipt of this action letter to accept these conditions in writing. If the institutions and the buyers do not accept these conditions in writing within fourteen days, the approval of the Board will become null and void, and the institutions will need to submit a new application for Change of Control, Structure, or Organization if they choose to proceed with this transaction or another transaction in the future. In that event, the Institutes will remain accredited institutions. However, if the Institutes proceed with the Change of Control, Structure or Organization without Commission approval, the Commission Board of Trustees has the authority to withdraw accreditation.

Assuming acceptance of these conditions, the Institutes and buyers must provide written notice of the closing date within 24 hours after the transaction has closed. The Institutes are also obligated to notify the Commission prior to closing if any of the material terms of this transaction have changed or appear likely to change. By Commission policy the closing must take place within no more than thirty days from the date of the Board's approval. If there is any delay such that the transaction cannot close within this time frame, the Institutes must notify the Commission as soon as possible so alternate arrangements can be identified to ensure that the Board's approval remains in effect.

The Board based its action on the following findings made in regard to the Institutes:

In reference to the first, second, and fourth approval factors and, related to the continuity of the institutions accredited by the Commission and sufficiency of financial support for

the transaction, the institutions and the buyers have provided reasonable evidence that these factors have been met.

In reference to the third approval factor, the substantial likelihood that following consummation of the transaction the institutions will meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation, with specific reference to governance, mission, programs, disclosures, administration, policies and procedures, finances, and integrity, the institutions and the buyers have provided reasonable evidence that this factor is met, although the following Criteria for Accreditation are Met with Concerns:

- Criterion One, Core Component 1.D: "The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good," for the following reasons:
  - Neither institution has demonstrated evidence that its underlying operations, in addition to its tax status, will be transformed to reflect a non-profit mission;
  - Neither institution has demonstrated significant planning required to undertake a mission that includes the responsibility of educating a potentially very different student population represented by the Dream Center clientele; and
  - O The buyers have not provided evidence that the institutions' educational purposes will take primacy over contributing to a related or parent organization, which will be struggling in its initial years to improve the enrollment and financial wherewithal of a large number of institutions purchased from EDMC.
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.A: "The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff," for the following reason:
  - Although each institution is making changes to procedures specifically identified in the November 2015 Consent Judgment, neither institution has yet established a long-term track record of integrity in its auxiliary functions.
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.B: "The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public with regard to its programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, control, and accreditation relationships," for the following reasons:
  - Changes being made by the institutions to ensure transparency, particularly
    with students, are recent in nature and have yet to fully penetrate the complex
    organizational structure of which the institutions are a part; and
  - Given the replication of that operational structure and the continuity of personnel following the transaction, the potential for continuing challenges is of concern.
- Criterion Two, Core Component 2.C: "The governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity," for the following reasons:
  - O There remain questions about how the governance of DCEH, its related service provider Dream Center Education Management, and the Art Institutes will take place after the transaction and how that governance will affect the governance of the AIC and IIA, and the mere replication of the EDMC corporate structure with new non-profit corporations does not resolve the

- question of how these new corporations will function in the future to assure autonomy and governance in the best interest of the institutions;
- An apparent conflict of interest exists owing to an investment by the DCEH CEO of 10% in the purchase price for which limited documentation exists;
   and
- No evidence was provided indicating that either institution's board had yet engaged in significant consideration of the role that typifies non-profit boards.
- Criterion Four, Core Component 4.A: "The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs," for the following reasons:
  - Neither institution has demonstrated that improvements have been made to academic programs identified since January 2017 by the USDE as having poor outcomes, or that such programs have been eliminated; and
  - The risk of harm to students admitted to such programs absent such improvement or elimination is of concern, regardless of the institutions' taxstatus or whether they are subject to gainful employment regulations.
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.A: "The institution's resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future," for the following reasons:
  - O Despite the adoption of certain cost-reducing and related measures, the impact of which are yet to be determined, the ability of each institution to sustain its resource base and improve enrollment beyond 2019 depends on the occurrence of several contingencies, most of which are assumptions tied to the institutions' change in tax status, and none of which are guaranteed;
  - O The ability of the buyers to provide the cash flow infusions necessary to sustain the institutions over the next five years are also linked to assumptions related to the institutions' change in tax status and the long-term debt taken on by DCEH and DCF in addition to the debt acquired for the purchase price; and
  - O Although the buyers are expected to have \$35 million in cash at closing (based on debt as noted above), these funds are intended to support multiple transactions within Argosy University, South University and the Art Institutes, and the potential need for and access to additional debt financing on the part of the buyers is of concern.
- Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C: "The institution engages in systematic and integrated planning," for the following reasons:
  - Neither institution has demonstrated that the impacts of the transaction have been accounted for in their strategic planning; and
  - o IIA's strategic planning process is still in the process of maturing.

In reference to the fifth approval factor, the experience of the buyers, administration, and board with higher education, the officers (CEO and CDO) of the buyers have some experience in higher education but do not have any experience as chief officers of a large system of non-profit institutions or with the specific challenges pertinent to EDMC institutions, including challenges related to marketing and recruitment policies, governance, administration, and student outcomes across institutions with many campuses and programs operating across the United States.

The Board action, if the conditions are accepted by the Institutes and the buyers, resulted in changes to the affiliation of the Institutes. These changes will be reflected on the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. Some of the information on that document, such as the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

Commission policy COMM.A.10.010, Commission Public Notices and Statements, requires that HLC prepare a summary of actions to be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations and published on its website within thirty days of any action. The summary will include HLC Board action regarding the Institutes. The Commission will also simultaneously inform the U.S. Department of Education of this action by copy of this letter. As further explained in policy, HLC may publish a Public Statement regarding this action and the transaction following the institutions' and the buyer's decision of whether to accept the conditions outlined above. Please note that any public announcement by the buyers about this action must include the information that any approval provided by the Commission is subject to the condition of the buyers accepting Change of Control candidacy for not less than six months up to a maximum of four years.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact Dr. Anthea Sweeney.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gellman-Danley

Barnara German Davley

President

cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Illinois Institute of Art

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Art Institute of Colorado

Deann Grossi, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Illinois Institute of Art

Ben Yohe, Director of General Education, the Art Institute of Colorado

Diane Duffy, Interim Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education

Stephanie Bernoteit, Senior Associate Director, Academic Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Evaluation team members

Anthea Sweeney, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission

Karen Peterson Solinski, Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, Higher Learning Commission

Michael Frola, Division Director, Multi-Regional and Foreign Schools Participation Division, U.S. Department of Education

Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, U.S. Department of Education

# Mangold, Donna

From:	Mangold, Donna
Sent:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:53 PM
To:	Frola, Michael; Bounds, Herman
Cc:	Finley, Steve; Karas, Karen
Subject:	RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)
Attachments:	HLC - Public Disclosure Notice 1.20.18.pdf; HLC - Public Dislosure Notice 1.20.18 (Feb version).pdf
Thanks – (b)(5)	
(b)(5)	
Sent: Tuesday, August To: Mangold, Donna < Cc: Finley, Steve <stev attorne="" donna,<="" hi="" re:="" subject:="" th=""><th>Michael.Frola@ed.gov&gt; t 11, 2020 1:36 PM Donna.Mangold@ed.gov&gt;; Bounds, Herman <herman.bounds@ed.gov> e.Finley@ed.gov&gt;; Karas, Karen <karen.karas@ed.gov> Y CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)</karen.karas@ed.gov></herman.bounds@ed.gov></th></stev>	Michael.Frola@ed.gov> t 11, 2020 1:36 PM Donna.Mangold@ed.gov>; Bounds, Herman <herman.bounds@ed.gov> e.Finley@ed.gov&gt;; Karas, Karen <karen.karas@ed.gov> Y CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)</karen.karas@ed.gov></herman.bounds@ed.gov>
(b)(5)	
Thanks, Mike	
Sent: Tuesday, August To: Bounds, Herman < Cc: Finley, Steve < Stev	a < Donna.Mangold@ed.gov> t 11, 2020 1:05 PM tHerman.Bounds@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov> e.Finley@ed.gov>; Karas, Karen < Karen.Karas@ed.gov> Y CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION(b)(5)
(b)(5)	

From: Mangold, Donna
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 9:28 AM
To: Bounds, Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov >; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov >
Cc: Finley, Steve < <u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u> >; Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> > Subject: FW: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION -(b)(5)
Importance: High
Following up on this.
From: Mangold, Donna
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Frola, Michael < Michael. Frola@ed.gov >; Bounds, Herman < Herman. Bounds@ed.gov >
Cc: Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> >; Finley, Steve < <u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u> >
Subject: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)
Herman – fyi – (b)(5)
(b)(5)
Mike and Herman,
(b)(5)

Thanks.



230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 Chicago, IL 60604-1411 312.263.0456 | 800.621.7440 Fax: 312.263.7462 | hlcommission.org

Public Disclosure:
Illinois Institute of Art and
Art Institute of Colorado
From "Accredited" to "Candidate"
Effective: January 20, 2018

The Illinois Institute of Art located in Chicago, Illinois, and the Art Institute of Colorado located in Denver, Colorado, have transitioned to being a candidate for accreditation after previously being accredited. The Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees voted to impose "Change of Control-Candidacy" on the Institutes as of the January 20 close of their sale by Education Management Corp. to the Dream Center Foundation through Dream Center Education Holdings.

This new status also applies to the Illinois Institute of Art campus in Schaumburg and its Art Institute of Michigan campus in Novi, Michigan.

In spring 2017 EDMC requested approval of a Change of Control seeking the extension of the accreditation of these institutions after their proposed sale to the Dream Center Foundation. During its review process of the Change of Control, HLC evaluated the potential for the institutions to continue to ensure a quality education to students after the change of ownership took place. The period of Change of Control-Candidacy status lasts from a minimum of six months to a maximum of four years. During candidacy status, an institution is not accredited but holds a recognized status with HLC indicating the institution meets the standards for candidacy.

## What This Means for Students

Students taking classes or graduating during the candidacy period should know that their courses or degrees are not accredited by HLC and may not be accepted in transfer to other colleges and universities or recognized by prospective employers. Institute courses completed and degrees earning prior to this January 20, 2018, change of status remain accredited. In most cases, other institutions of higher education will accept those credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program as they were earned during an HLC accreditation period.

All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Students should contact any institution they plan to attend in the future so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

## Next Steps

HLC requires that the Institutes provide proper advisement and accommodations to students in light of this action, which may include, if necessary, assisting students with financial accommodations or transfer arrangements if requested.

Higher Learning Commission Public Disclosure Notice Illinois Institute of Art/Art Institute of Colorado/Page 2

Dream Center Education Holdings and Dream Center Foundation are required to submit a report to HLC every 90 days detailing quarterly financials to assess adequate operating resources at each entity and both Institutes.

The Institutes will each submit Eligibility Filings no later than March 1, 2018 providing documentation that each institution meets the HLC Eligibility Requirements and Assumed Practices. The Institutes will also host a campus visit within six months of the transaction date as required by HLC policy and regulation. The HLC Board will consider reinstatement of Accredited status at a future meeting.

## About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Questions? Contact info@hlcommission.org or call 312.263.0456.



230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7:500 Chicago, IL 60604:1411 312.263.0456 | 800.621.7440 Fax: 312.263.7462 | hlcommission.org

Public Disclosure:
Illinois Institute of Art and
Art Institute of Colorado
From "Accredited" to "Candidate"
Effective: January 20, 2018

The Illinois Institute of Art located in Chicago, Illinois, and the Art Institute of Colorado located in Denver, Colorado, have transitioned to being a candidate for accreditation after previously being accredited. The Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees voted to impose "Change of Control-Candidacy" on the Institutes as of the January 20 close of their sale by Education Management Corp. to the Dream Center Foundation through Dream Center Education Holdings.

This new status also applies to the Illinois Institute of Art campus in Schaumburg and its Art Institute of Michigan campus in Novi, Michigan.

In spring 2017 EDMC requested approval of a Change of Control seeking the extension of the accreditation of these institutions after their proposed sale to the Dream Center Foundation. During its review process of the Change of Control, HLC evaluated the potential for the institutions to continue to ensure a quality education to students after the change of ownership took place. The period of Change of Control-Candidacy status lasts from a minimum of six months to a maximum of four years. During candidacy status, an institution is not accredited but holds a recognized status with HLC indicating the institution meets the standards for candidacy. The institution remains eligible to become accredited again as noted below under Next Steps.

#### What This Means for Students

Students taking classes or graduating during the candidacy period should know that their courses or degrees are not accredited by HLC and may not be accepted in transfer to other colleges and universities or recognized by prospective employers. Institute courses completed and degrees earning prior to this January 20, 2018, change of status remain accredited. In most cases, other institutions of higher education will accept those credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program as they were earned during an HLC accreditation period.

All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Students should contact any institution they plan to attend in the future so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

## Next Steps

HLC requires that the Institutes provide proper advisement and accommodations to students in light of this action, which may include, if necessary, assisting students with financial accommodations or transfer arrangements if requested.

Higher Learning Commission Public Disclosure Notice Illinois Institute of Art/Art Institute of Colorado/Page 2

Dream Center Education Holdings and Dream Center Foundation are required to submit a report to HLC every 90 days detailing quarterly financials to assess adequate operating resources at each entity and both Institutes.

The Institutes will undergo a campus visit within six months of the transaction closing, as required by policy and federal regulation, and a second visit by June 2019. If at the time of the visits, the Institutes demonstrate compliance with HLC standards, accreditation may be reinstated by the HLC Board.

## About the Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Questions? Contact info@hlcommission.org or call 312.263.0456.

From:	Mangold, Donna
Sent:	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:04 PM
To:	Frola, Michael; Bounds, Herman
Cc:	Finley, Steve; Karas, Karen
Subject:	RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION -(b)(5)
-	
(b)(5)	
From: Frola. Mic	hael <michael.frola@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov>
	y, August 12, 2020 11:59 AM
	onna <donna.mangold@ed.gov>; Bounds, Herman <herman.bounds@ed.gov></herman.bounds@ed.gov></donna.mangold@ed.gov>
• • •	<steve.finley@ed.gov>; Karas, Karen <karen.karas@ed.gov></karen.karas@ed.gov></steve.finley@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: ATT	ORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)
(b)(5)	
From: Mangold,	
	y, August 12, 2020 9:35 AM
	man < <u>Herman.Bounds@ed.gov</u> >; Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> >
• •	< <u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u> >; Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> >
Subject: RE: ATT	ORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)
(b)(5)	
From: Bounds, H	Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov >
Sent: Wednesda	y, August 12, 2020 9:14 AM
	nna < <u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u> >; Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> >
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	< <u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u> >; Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> >
Subject: RE: ATT	ORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)
4.745	
(b)(5)	
Thanks Herm	nan

Mangold, Donna

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S., MS. Director Accreditation Group Office of Post Secondary Education
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave
Washington DC 20202
Herman.Bounds@ed.gov<mailto:Herman.Bounds@ed.gov>
202-453-7615

Thanks Herman, I wasn't very clear. | (b)(5)

From: Mangold, Donna < Donna. Mangold@ed.gov> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:56 AM To: Frola, Michael < Michael. Frola@ed.gov>; Bounds, Herman < Herman. Bounds@ed.gov> Cc: Finley, Steve <<u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u>>; Karas, Karen <<u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u>> Subject: RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5) Thank you for this confirmation Mike. Herman, let us know what you find. From: Frola, Michael < Michael. Frola@ed.gov > Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:22 AM To: Mangold, Donna < <a href="mailto:Donna.Mangold@ed.gov">Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</a>>; Bounds, Herman < <a href="mailto:Herman.Bounds@ed.gov">Herman.Bounds@ed.gov</a>> Cc: Finley, Steve <<u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u>>; Karas, Karen <<u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u>> **Subject:** RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5) Hi Donna, (b)(5)-Mike From: Mangold, Donna Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:51 PM To: Bounds, Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov >; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov > Cc: Finley, Steve <<u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u>>; Karas, Karen <<u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u>> Subject: RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)

(b)(5)
From: Bounds, Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov >
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:33 PM
To: Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> >; Mangold, Donna < <u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u> >
Cc: Finley, Steve < <u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u> >; Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> >
Subject: RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)
Subject: RE: ATTORNET CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMONICATION - (0)(3)
C   f + -  + -
Sorry, I forgot about this one. (b)(5)
)(5)
Thanks Herman
Thanks Herman
Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S., MS.
Director
Accreditation Group
Office of Post Secondary Education
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave
Washington DC 20202
Herman.Bounds@ed.gov <mailto:herman.bounds@ed.gov></mailto:herman.bounds@ed.gov>
202-453-7615
202 433 7013
From: Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> >
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Mangold, Donna < <a href="mailto:Donna.Mangold@ed.gov">Donna &lt; Herman &amp; Herman Bounds@ed.gov</a>
Cc: Finley, Steve < <u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u> >; Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> >
Subject: RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)
Hi Donna,
Thanks for the reminder. (b)(5)
(b)(5) Please see attached emails with attachments.
Thanks,
Mike

From: Mangold, Donna < <a href="mailto:Donna.Mangold@ed.gov">Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</a>>

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:05 PM  To: Bounds, Herman <
(b)(5)
From: Mangold, Donna Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 9:28 AM To: Bounds, Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov >; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov > Cc: Finley, Steve < Steve.Finley@ed.gov >; Karas, Karen < Karen.Karas@ed.gov > Subject: FW: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5) Importance: High  Following up on this.
From: Mangold, Donna  Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 3:40 PM  To: Frola, Michael < Michael. Frola@ed.gov >; Bounds, Herman < Herman. Bounds@ed.gov >  Cc: Karas, Karen < Karen. Karas@ed.gov >; Finley, Steve < Steve. Finley@ed.gov >  Subject: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)
Herman – fyi – (b)(5)
Mike and Herman,
(b)(5)

Thanks.

d, Donna y, August 13, 2020 9:18 AM Herman; Frola, Michael Steve; Karas, Karen ORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION -  n.Bounds@ed.gov> 0 7:26 AM angold@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov> ed.gov>; Karas, Karen < Karen.Karas@ed.gov>	
Herman; Frola, Michael Steve; Karas, Karen  ORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION -  n.Bounds@ed.gov> 0.7:26 AM angold@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov> ed.gov>; Karas, Karen < Karen.Karas@ed.gov>	
Steve; Karas, Karen  ORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION -  n.Bounds@ed.gov> 0.7:26 AM nngold@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov ed.gov>; Karas, Karen < Karen.Karas@ed.gov>	
n.Bounds@ed.gov> 0.7:26 AM angold@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael <michael.frola@ed.gov ed.gov="">; Karas, Karen <karen.karas@ed.gov></karen.karas@ed.gov></michael.frola@ed.gov>	
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020 6:09 PM ounds@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> ed.gov>; Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> >	>
a. 20 .Be	Herman  Ation  Ation  Atio:Herman.Bounds@ed.gov>  a.Mangold@ed.gov> 2020 6:09 PM  .Bounds@ed.gov>; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov  @ed.gov>; Karas, Karen < Karen.Karas@ed.gov> CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)

Donna, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

# Thanks Herman

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S., MS.  Director  Accreditation Group  Office of Post Secondary Education  US Department of Education  400 Maryland Ave  Washington DC 20202  Herman.Bounds@ed.gov <mailto:herman.bounds@ed.gov>  202-453-7615</mailto:herman.bounds@ed.gov>
From: Mangold, Donna < Donna.Mangold@ed.gov > Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:56 AM  To: Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov >; Bounds, Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov > Cc: Finley, Steve < Steve.Finley@ed.gov >; Karas, Karen < Karen.Karas@ed.gov > Subject: RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION - (b)(5)  Thank you for this confirmation Mike. Herman, let us know what you find.
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0)(5)
(5)
-Mike

From: Mangold, Donna

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:51 PM

To: Bounds, Herman < Herman.Bounds@ed.gov >; Frola, Michael < Michael.Frola@ed.gov >
Cc: Finley, Steve < <a href="mailto:Steve.Finley@ed.gov">Steve.Finley@ed.gov"&gt;Steve.Finley@ed.gov</a> >; Karas, Karen < <a href="mailto:Karas@ed.gov">Karas@ed.gov</a> >
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<b>Sent:</b> Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:33 PM
<b>To:</b> Frola, Michael < <u>Michael.Frola@ed.gov</u> >; Mangold, Donna < <u>Donna.Mangold@ed.gov</u> >
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Herman.Bounds@ed.gov <mailto:herman.bounds@ed.gov></mailto:herman.bounds@ed.gov>
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Subject: RE: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)
Importance: High
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Reminder to check on the 2 questions below (b)(5)
(b)(5)
From: Mangold, Donna
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Cc: Finley, Steve < <u>Steve.Finley@ed.gov</u> >; Karas, Karen < <u>Karen.Karas@ed.gov</u> >
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Subject: ATTORNEY CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION (b)(5)
Hause a f. : VbVE
Herman – fyi – (b)(5)
Mike and Herman,
b)(5)

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Thanks.