



October 30, 2024

Dr. Marcus D. Jones  
President  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana  
310 Sam Sibley Suite 223  
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Dear Dr. Jones:

As you know, all institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) are required to undergo a review for reaffirmation of accreditation every ten (10) years. After being granted initial accreditation, new member institutions are reviewed for reaffirmation of accreditation after five (5) years, then every ten (10) years thereafter.

In December 2019, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved a Differentiated Review Process (DRP) that would allow institutions that qualified to participate in a new process by compiling and submitting a modified Compliance Certification, documenting compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*, and submitting a Quality Enhancement Plan for review by peer review committees. The DRP includes off-site and on-site reviews and institutions document fewer *Principles of Accreditation* standards during the initial process (institutions may need to address additional standards based on committee reports or supplemental information discovered during reviews).

While maintaining the rigor associated with the reaffirmation of accreditation process, member institutions may participate in the approved Differentiated Review Process if they meet the eligibility requirements. The "Differentiated Review Process" policy is available on the SACSCOC website at <https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2020/01/Differentiated-Review.pdf>.

Your institution was one that expressed interest in participating in the DRP and a Committee of peers reviewed the applications of all institutions that expressed interest. The Committee made its recommendations to the SACSCOC Executive Council. The Council, on behalf of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, approved those institutions eligible to participate.

I am pleased to share with you that your institution has been approved to participate in the Differentiated Review Process for the reaffirmation Class of 2027. Institutions may not participate in the Differentiated Review Process for two consecutive decennial reaffirmation of accreditation processes; therefore, you will return to the regular reaffirmation process in 2037.



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Please confirm your institution's participation to my attention, in writing, by November 8, 2024. We wish you the best as you complete this new reaffirmation process. If you have any questions regarding the Differentiated Review Process or any other questions related to reaffirmation, please feel free to contact your SACSCOC staff member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW:jj

c: Dr. J. Matthew Melton, SACSCOC Vice President  
Mrs. Veronica Biscoe, Institutional Accreditation Liaison