



Tab 19

Proprietary School Certification Actions and Reviews

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
March 6, 2019

BACKGROUND

The Missouri Department of Higher Education's Proprietary School Certification Program (§§ 173.600-173.618, RSMo) provides oversight of certain types of Missouri-based and out-of-state private, postsecondary education providers. This board item provides an update on current issues regarding the Proprietary School Certification Program as well as a summary of recent program actions.

CURRENT STATUS

All program actions that have occurred since the December 12, 2018, Coordinating Board for Higher Education meeting are reported in the attachment to this item. The report includes information concerning anticipated actions on applications to establish new postsecondary education institutions, exemptions from the department's certification requirements, and school closures.

Vatterott Education Centers, Inc.

Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc., the parent company of Vatterott College and L'Ecole Culinaire, operated 14 locations in four states, including Missouri. Vatterott Educational Centers was founded in Missouri and has been in operation in the state for nearly 50 years. In June of 2017, Vatterott College voluntarily entered a Missouri state receivership in order to manage financial issues and facilitate the sale of the system of schools. While several buyers expressed interest, including at least two that submitted letters of intent, a sale was not completed by October 2018. On October 31, 2018, the U.S. Department of Education increased its financial monitoring of the system, a step that can delay delivery of federal student aid funds by 60 days. After additional negotiations with USDE failed to result in a viable agreement for a controlled closure, Vatterott Educational Centers notified the MDHE on December 17, 2018, the school was closing all of its campuses effective immediately.

The school did not implement a teach-out plan, but the school retained a small staff to manage the website, answer calls and emails, work on transfer arrangements, and provide transcripts and tax documents. The school is working to transfer all student transcripts to Parchment, Inc., a digital credential service based in Arizona. Department staff continue to work to assist students and anticipate recalling the security deposits posted by the schools to provide partial refunds to cash pay students impacted by the closure.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

ATTACHMENT

- Proprietary School Certification Program Actions and Reviews

Tab 19 Attachment **Proprietary School Certification Program Actions and Reviews**

Certificates of Approval Issued (Authorization for Instructional Delivery)

Centriq Training
Kansas City, Missouri

This for-profit institution offers non-degree programs in web development and information technology support and security. The school relocated its headquarters from Leawood, Kansas, and its St. Louis location was re-designated as a branch of the new Kansas City campus. The school is not accredited.

Certificates of Approval Issued (Authorization Only to Recruit Students in Missouri)

Universal Technical Institute of Northern Texas
Irving, Texas

This for-profit institution will recruit Missouri students for certificate and degree programs in automotive and diesel technology and welding technology. The school is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

Exemptions Granted

None

Applications Pending Approval (Authorization for Instructional Delivery)

Mercy Hospital School of Radiologic Technology
St. Louis, Missouri

This non-profit institution seeks to offer a non-degree program in radiologic technology. The mission of the school is to develop students' technical and social skills to successfully perform radiography and to improve health services in their communities. The school is not institutionally accredited but the radiologic technology program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

Savvy Technologies
St. Louis, Missouri

This for-profit institution seeks to offer non-degree programs in web development. The mission of the school is to provide students with quality front-end coding skills. The school is not accredited.

Applications Pending Approval (Authorization Only to Recruit Students)

None

Schools Closed

Made Whole Health Technology Services St. Louis, Missouri

Made Whole Health Technology Services, located in St. Louis, Missouri, was unaccredited. The school was approved to offer certificate programs in allied health. The school's owner made the decision to cease enrollment and taught out all enrolled students before formally closing December 18, 2018. Department staff verified the appropriate storage of all student-related records, as required by Missouri statutes.

National American University – Branch Campuses

National American University operated branch locations in Kansas City, Lee's Summit, and at Whiteman AFB in Missouri. The school is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The branch locations were approved to offer certificate, associate, and baccalaureate degrees in business, allied health, criminal justice, and information technology. The school's owners made the decision to cease new enrollment in ground-based programs at these locations in Missouri. The branch campuses permanently closed November 30, 2018. Department staff monitored the closure process and verified the appropriate storage of all student-related records, as required by Missouri statutes. The school continues to operate a main campus in Independence, Missouri.

National American University - Recruit Overland Park, Kansas

National American University, located in Overland Park, Kansas, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The school was approved to recruit students for its Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The school's owners made the decision to cease recruitment in Missouri. The campus remains open and currently enrolled students continue to work towards program completion. Department staff verified the appropriate storage of all student-related records, as required by Missouri statutes.

Vatterott College and L'Ecole Culinaire – Main and Branch Campuses

Vatterott College, located in St. Charles, Missouri, was accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc., is the parent company of Vatterott College and L'Ecole Culinaire. Vatterott operated seven locations in Missouri: Berkeley, Joplin, Kansas City, Springfield, St. Charles, St. Louis (Extreme Institute), and Sunset Hills. L'Ecole Culinaire operated in two locations in Missouri: Kansas City and St. Louis. Vatterott schools offered certificate and associate degrees in program areas such as auto/diesel technology, information technology, and allied health; the Extreme Institute offered certificates in performing arts and an associate degree in Recording Engineering; and the L'Ecole campuses offered certificate programs and an associate degree in the culinary arts.

Vatterott notified the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) on December 17, 2018, the school was closing its campuses effective immediately. The school did not implement a teach-out plan, but the school is retaining a small staff for a short period of time to manage the website, answer calls and emails, work on transfer arrangements, and provide transcripts and tax documents. Department staff continue to work to assist students and with Vatterott in order to ensure the appropriate storage of all student-related records, as required by Missouri statutes.

Certifications Denied

None