



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR BUSINESS SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Bringing Together Those Dedicated To Teaching Excellence

May 8, 2012

Dr. Janet L. Cunningham
President
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
709 Oklahoma Boulevard
Alva, Oklahoma 73717

Dear President Cunningham:

Congratulations! The Board of Commissioners of the Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Commission met on April 26-28, 2012, and granted initial accreditation to Northwestern Oklahoma State University with three notes for your business programs.

The NWOSU faculty and its leadership prepared a comprehensive Self-Study documenting an overall well-developed, learning outcomes focus program and is clearly a best practices document.

The institution's response to the feedback report was thorough and clearly reflects their commitment and dedication to the continuous improvement process. Both the visiting team and the Board of Commissioners concur that NWOSU has done an exemplary job and is to be highly commended. In short this is a best practices institution when it comes to modeling the initial accreditation process.

Conditions and notes indicate that either the Standard or Criteria is not fully met, and should be viewed as an opportunity to move your program to a higher level of excellence. Opportunities for improvement indicate that the Standard has been met, and is a suggestion to help move your processes from good to great. It would be extremely rare that a school receive accreditation without these conditions or notes given ACBSP's Core Value of Continuous Improvement and Organizational Learning, that "Business schools and programs should pursue regular cycles of planning, execution, and evaluation of every process and system. Ongoing improvement of these processes and systems leads to ever higher quality and student/stakeholder satisfaction." The notes placed on your programs are:

Note on Standard 3: The planned introduction of instruments under development will allow for the collection of data from all stakeholders and provide the requisite data for analysis and review of stakeholder outcomes. This procedure could create an effective systematic process for improvement and evaluation leading to a fully deployed process.

Note on Standard 4, Criterion 4.4: As the introduction of major curriculum changes has yet to be fully deployed, the collection of data and its analysis to improve student learning outcomes is not now an integrated process. As the integrated process is developed and deployed, changes in learning outcomes, newly developed action plans, measurement and analysis of student learning, and program improvements need to be clearly documented.

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Note on Standard 5, Criterion 5.2.2: The development of a mission-based, student learning outcomes orientation and training for the growing number of adjunct faculty would provide a more systematic approach to the integration of course materials and outcome goals. Such a program could lead to a fully developed and deployed 'learning culture' across the entire faculty of the School of Business.

Progress on notes must be reported in future Quality Assurance Reports. You are encouraged to work with Commissioner Dr. John Millar on the removal of the notes. Dr. Millar may be contacted by phone at: 419-448-3406, or through his e-mail address at: jmillar@tiffin.edu. Your first Quality Assurance Report will be due on 2/15/2014, and every two years after that. Your ten year reaffirmation will be due in 2022.

ACBSP will inform the public of decisions on accreditation status made by the Boards of Commissioners by posting the accreditation decisions on the ACBSP Gateway. The decisions on accreditation status can be accessed from the following link: [Accreditation Decisions](#) and will appear as the following:

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Initial Accreditation with improvement opportunities in the following standards:

Standard #3 Student and Stakeholder Focus

Standard #4 Measurement and Analysis of Student Learning and Performance

Standard #5 Faculty and Staff Focus

ACBSP encourages you to publicly announce that your business programs are accredited. Next week, we will be sending you, via e-mail, a sample ACBSP Press Release and ACBSP Logo files for publicizing your accreditation. As you prepare these materials, the following is your official ACBSP statement:

The following business programs at Northwestern Oklahoma State University are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs:

**Accounting (B.S.)
Business Administration (B.S.)
Organizational Leadership (B.S.)
Technical Management (B.A.A.S.)**

Please take this opportunity to review the institution name as it will appear on your Certificate of Accreditation. If this is not correct, please notify Diana Hallerud via email at dianahallerud@acbsp.org and provide the correction by May 16, 2012.

**Name of institution as it will appear on the certificate:
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Alva, Oklahoma**

Please mark your calendar to join us in Baltimore, Maryland, where we will honor you and all other schools receiving initial or reaffirmation of accreditation during the 2011-2012 membership year. You are encouraged to attend along with your Chief Academic Officer and Dean or Head of the Business School or Program. Many institutions invite many of the faculty to this prestigious celebration.

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Your institution will also be announced during the Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Institution meeting held on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 3:45 pm. There is a breakfast on Sunday morning June 17, 2012, at 7:45 a.m. for those institutions that are receiving accreditation. The purpose of the breakfast is to more personally congratulate the institutional representatives and to outline the procedures that will be followed at the accreditation banquet. At least one institutional representative should attend the breakfast.

In addition to the breakfast, a professional photographer will be available on Sunday, June 17, 2012 to photograph all institutional representatives along with the ACBSP Director of Accreditation, Executive Liaison to the Board of Commissioners, and the Chair of the Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners. **Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Institutions beginning with M-Z will be photographed from 6:10 to 6:30 p.m.** Appropriate dress for the photo session and banquet is business professional.

The 2012 conference will be June 15-18 in Baltimore and our host hotel will be at the JW Marriott. Updated information is always available by going to ACBSP Gateway, www.acbsp.org. The 2012 conference theme will be, "Sustaining Excellence Through Quality Business Education." Two Pre-Conference Workshops will be offered on June 14th and 15th. On Thursday and Friday, Dr. Gregory O'Brien and Dr. Annette Craven will present, **Setting the Table for Success**, an ABCSP Leadership Institute for new and prospective deans and program chairs. On Friday, June 15, from 8-11:30 a.m., there will be a Pre-Conference Workshop by Janice Stoudemire focusing on **Completing the Student Learning Process**.

Online registration will is available at: <http://www.acbsp.org/p/cm/ld/fid=188>.

Congratulations on maintaining such a high quality business program.

Sincerely,



Steve Parscale
Director of Accreditation

Enclosures

c: Dr. Steve L. Lohmann, Executive Vice President
Dr. James L. Bowen, Dean, School of Professional