



November 13, 2014

Dr. Dan R. Jones
President
Texas A&M University-Commerce
P. O. Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75428

Dear Dr. Jones:

Thank you for your letter and prospectus of June 9, 2014, notifying SACSCOC of your intention to offer 50% or more of the credits for a degree program at an off-campus instructional site, effective spring 2015. The address of the site is:

Midlothian Higher Education Center
899 Mount Zion Road
Midlothian, TX 76065

Texas A&M University-Commerce has been offering 25-49% of the following degree programs at the site since 2006: B.S. and B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with teacher certifications in Early Childhood-6th Grade; Early Childhood-6th Grade (with Bilingual Specialization); Science and Math; and English Language Arts/Reading Specializations. These programs will now be offered so that a student can complete the entire degree in the traditional format at the site.

Since the College is approved to offer 50% or more of a degree program at three or more off-campus instructional sites, a modified prospectus is acceptable. This review will follow that format.

The Faculty Roster Form submitted indicates that all the faculty members teaching in the education programs are qualified to do so. The list includes twelve (12) full-time and seventeen (17) part-time faculty members. Most have doctorates and are teaching courses appropriate to their qualifications—education, mathematics, psychology, music, health, Spanish, science, language arts, and theatre.

The coursework offered in the degree programs is part of a partnership agreement, approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, between Navarro College, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Tarleton State University, and the University of North Texas to bring baccalaureate (and graduate degree programs in the case of the other partners) degree programs to residents of Ellis County through the Midlothian Higher Education Center (a designated Multi-Institutional Teaching Center). Thus, Navarro College provides the undergraduate core curriculum and Texas A&M University-Commerce provides the curriculum leading to a teacher certification in the four areas noted above. Offered by the College of Education and Human Services, the curriculum is the same as that offered on the University Campus.

Library and learning resources are adequate for the degree programs. The library collection includes over 900,000 monographs, 95,000 serial volumes, and over 1,000,000 microforms. Electronic resources



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include 190 databases, 64,000 journals, and over 110,000 e-books. Significant numbers of discipline-specific resources in the collection are related to education.

A wide range of student support services are available to students. These resources include an Academic Success Center, career development, computer resources, a Counseling Center, financial aid and scholarships, financial services, military and veteran's services, and a campus bookstore. Students can also access University information, like academic advisor contact information, course schedule, university events, and the dining menu via the new A&M-Commerce's mobile application.

Physical resources are adequate for the program. Each classroom accommodates approximately 30 students. All classrooms are equipped with computers and projectors, and several classrooms are equipped with SmartBoards which provide faculty members connection to the internet and Powerpoint presentations. Furnished office space is provided along with a library, study spaces, and computer labs.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Midlothian Higher Education Center off-campus instructional site. It was the decision of the Board to approve the site and include it in the scope of the current accreditation. The approval of an off-campus instructional site is effective for a maximum of five years. The site will be reviewed, which may include a site visit, as part of the institution's fifth-year or decennial review.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$300 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus.

The Commission wishes you success in this endeavor.

Best regards,

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

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/LCS:iy

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Marila Palmer, Associate Provost, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning
Dr. Barry D. Goldstein