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January 25, 2024

Ms. Alicia Parra  
President  
Jose Maria Vargas University  
10131 Pines Boulevard  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Dear Ms. Parra,

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (the Commission) met on January 25, 2024 and considered its January 20, 2023 decision to defer action on the application for initial accreditation submitted by Jose Maria Vargas University (JMVU). I am pleased to report that, upon review of the November 2, 2023 Chair's Report, the In-Residence Program Component Companion Report, and the Federal Student Assistance Report pertaining to the September 6, 2023 on-site evaluation and the institution's November 15, 2023 response, the Commission voted to grant JMVU accreditation for a period of 3 years through January 2027. The Commission also voted to certify Jose Maria Vargas University as accredited for Title IV purposes and accept the in-residence component companion report.

Accreditation by DEAC is a reliable indicator of the value and quality of the distance education that an institution offers. In receiving this initial grant of accreditation, JMVU has demonstrated its commitment to educational standards and ethical business practices that assure quality, accountability, and improvement in higher education.

The scope of JMVU's accreditation extends to the programs listed below:

Degree

- Associate of Science in Accounting (English)
- Associate of Science in Accounting (Spanish)
- Associate of Arts in Preschool Education (English)
- Associate of Arts in Preschool Education (Spanish)
- Associate of Science in Mental Health & Human Services (English)
- Associate of Science in Mental Health & Human Services (Spanish)
- Bachelor of Art in Graphic Design (English)
- Bachelor of Art in Graphic Design (Spanish)
- Bachelor of Art in Preschool Education (English)
- Bachelor of Art in Preschool Education (Spanish)
- Bachelor Art in Business Administration (English)
- Bachelor Art in Business Administration (Spanish)
- Bachelor of Art in Mental Health and Human Services (English)
- Bachelor of Art in Mental Health and Human Services (Spanish)
- Master of Business Administration in Finance (English)
- Master of Business Administration in Finance (Spanish)
- Master of Science in Preschool Education (English)
- Master of Science in Preschool Education (Spanish)

Degree Level Certificates

- Medical Assistant Technician (English)
- Medical Assistant Technician (Spanish)

Vocational

- Florida Child Care Professional Credential (Formerly CDA-E) (English)
- Florida Child Care Professional Credential (Formerly CDA-E) (Spanish)
- Home Health Aide Diploma Program (English)
- Home Health Aide Diploma Program (Spanish)
- English as a Second Language Diploma Program (English)

The Certificate of Accreditation is enclosed with the hard copy of the accreditation letter that will be sent to the institution by mail. Please bear in mind that JMVU is required to renew its accreditation before January 2027. The reaccreditation visit will be scheduled for fall 2026. JMVU's application for reaccreditation will be due one year prior to the renewal date.

The DEAC approach to accreditation incorporates practices of continuous improvement and quality enhancement. It does not assume a single model or template for improvement but reflects an understanding that continuous improvement is a process that can follow many different paths toward excellence in distance education. Additional review of the Examining Committee Chair's Report is one approach to developing institutional plans for the future. We suggest that JMVU consider the observations of the Examining Committee when undertaking institutional assessment and improvement planning. In addition, the enclosed document, *Obligations of Accreditation*, provides helpful reminders of submissions essential to maintaining DEAC accreditation.

Please keep DEAC advised on an ongoing basis of new developments, programs, and procedures undertaken at your institution in the months and years to come. Again, we congratulate you and your staff on the accreditation of JMVU. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact DEAC staff.

Sincerely,



Leah K. Matthews  
Executive Director

Enclosures: Certificate of Accreditation  
*Obligations of Accreditation*

cc: Dr. Wanda Nitsch, Chair of the Accrediting Commission

## OBLIGATIONS OF ACCREDITATION

Accreditation brings with it a number of obligations for the institution. An accredited institution must continue to meet all Standards of Accreditation. The institution must continue to justify the confidence placed in it by DEAC and improve itself in all areas. Accredited institutions are obligated to:

### A. FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT

Each accredited institution is required to file an Annual Report form to the Commission. The institution must advise the Commission of significant changes since its initial or last renewal of accreditation cycle. An institution is assessed a late fee if its Annual Report is not submitted in accordance with DEAC deadlines. As part of the Annual Report, the institution must report its data on course completion and program graduation rates. The institution must also submit data on students' satisfaction.

### B. PAY ANNUAL DUES AND ACCREDITATION FEES

An accredited institution is charged an annual Accreditation Fee to sustain the accreditation process. As a member of DEAC, each member institution is charged annual dues. These dues support the research and professional activities of DEAC. The dues and fees are based on annual tuition receipts. An institution must submit a completed "Computation for Dues and Fees Form." A statement is sent to the institution indicating the amount of Dues and Accreditation Fees owed. Dues and fees not paid in full by April 30th are charged a late fee. An accredited institution failing to meet their financial obligations to DEAC by September 30th is subject to a special accreditation visit.

### C. TEACH-OUT COMMITMENT

The institution should be mindful of its formal commitment to "teach out" all students who enroll in its distance study programs irrespective of changes in the institution's accreditation status. The institution should update the Teach-Out Commitment and send it to the Commission when there are changes in the institution's ownership, management, or location. Institutions must also submit a Teach-Out Plan, if required.

### D. NEW AND REVISED COURSES

The institution must inform the Commission whenever it adds or revises a course/program.

### E. CORRECT ANY INCORRECT OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

An accredited institution is required to issue public correction to all incorrect or misleading information knowingly or unknowingly released in reference to its accreditation status, the contents of reports of the examining committee from accreditation-related visits, and/or any actions taken by the Commission with respect to the institution.

### F. MAINTAIN BEING PROPERLY LICENSED, AUTHORIZED, OR APPROVED

An accredited institution may not retain accreditation if it is not properly licensed, authorized, or approved by the applicable state educational oversight authority. Each accredited institution must conform to all the provisions of applicable laws and regulations.

#### G. ADVISE COMMISSION IN A TIMELY WAY

An accredited institution must promptly inform the Commission of any actions it plans to take itself or actions taken against it by other agencies if those actions could affect its good status in the eyes of the Commission or the public, and resolve complaints in a forthright, prompt, amicable, and equitable manner. Members should make periodic contact with the staff of the Commission apprising them of governmental and media actions which may affect their institutions or the Commission.

#### H. ADVISE COMMISSION OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

It is the duty of the Commission to make certain that any substantive change an accredited institution makes does not adversely affect its capacity to continue to meet DEAC's Accreditation Standards. An institution must obtain the Commission's approval before the change in the institution's scope of accreditation is granted.

#### I. PARTICIPATE IN ON-SITE EVALUATIONS

An institution should encourage its staff and faculty to actively participate in DEAC's accreditation process as one opportunity for professional development. The Commission conducts training sessions through its online course entitled "DEAC Evaluator Training Program." Peer-reviewers receive instructions on being an effective evaluator.

#### J. RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION

An accredited institution must take the steps necessary to renew its accreditation at least every five years (three years following initial accreditation). After this time, without affirmative action by the Commission to continue the renewal of an institution's accreditation, the accreditation expires as of the date determined by the Commission. DEAC staff sends the institution a reminder to submit its Application for Accreditation by the date specified. Once the institution is granted renewal of accreditation, the DEAC staff issues a new accreditation certificate citing the original date of accreditation and the renewal of accreditation date.

#### K. FAILURE TO MEET OBLIGATIONS

If at any time an institution fails to meet its obligations of accreditation in a timely manner, including failure to pay its financial obligations to DEAC, the Commission may order a special visit.