

For Immediate Release:

Douglas Education Center Receives Maximum Eight-Year Grant

Douglas Education Center (DEC) is proud to announce that it has received eight years of reaccreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). This is the maximum amount of years that can be awarded through the Council and DEC is now recognized as an "honor roll" institution.

Founded in 1912, ACICS is one of the most respected and longest established national accreditors of academic institutions in the United States. It is recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

"The administration and faculty at Douglas worked diligently in preparing for the ACICS visit," said Patricia DeConcilis, Director of Education, at DEC. "But, in reality, the curricula and the educational setting truly reflect the integrity of DEC and all of its programs."

DEC prepared for the visit for over two years, compiling immense amounts of information to be presented over a two-day visit from an ACICS team. Every department was heavily involved in the planning process, which required completing a lengthy self-study about DEC and its processes.

Although the workload was labor-intensive, working towards the visit really brought the entire DEC team together. The level of excitement and anticipation leading up to the visit was extremely high. All of the extra long evenings and meetings upon meetings surely paid off.

"I am very proud of this accomplishment," said Jeffrey D. Imbrescia, President of DEC.

"This was a total team effort led by our Director of Education, Patricia DeConcilis and the Education Department made up of Susan Weaver and Renee McDowell. These ladies, along with the directors of all of the departments, and their staff, helped to demonstrate the quality of this school to ACICS. We know that we have an exciting educational environment here, and it was so gratifying to have such a prestigious entity realize that, and reward us for it. The best comment I heard from ACICS was that our students show a true dedication and passion to DEC. That meant so much to me."

DEC must respond to a mid-term ACICS review in four years, but the accreditation will run till December 31, 2017.

DEC offers programs in medical, business, cosmetology, graphic design, illustration, fantasy art, special make-up effects, and digital filmmaking. The next semester start is February 5, 2010.

To learn more about DEC and its programs, please visit www.dec.edu