Re: Rennert Response to Denial of Reaccreditation

Esteemed Colleagues:

While Rennert International respects the decision of the ACCET appeals panel and ACCET commission, we are extremely disappointed in the outcome. Rennert has been in business for 45 years, has been licensed in New York for 43 years and, in 1987, was one of the first schools authorized to issue form I-20. Rennert has always set its own high standards and became ACCET accredited in 2013 exceeding the standards in several categories. Rennert has served tens of thousands of students in its English Language and Language Plus Programs.

Rennert certainly understands that financial stability is key to running an institution. However, during the time of the deferral, the institution made substantial progress toward meeting ACCET’s financial stability standards that included negotiating out of millions of dollars of New York lease commitments and finding an impressive majority share purchaser. This share owner would infuse our company with capital and contribute to the expansion of our ESL and career school businesses, offering benefit to our students, our staff, our partners and our local communities.

What has left us incredulous is the inability of the Panel/Commission to take any discretionary decision in our favor. Our request was to extend our accredited status for an additional 3 months in order to complete our significantly advanced sale transactions. We hoped that a decision favorable to Rennert would have been made considering the holistic solution pending and also, particularly considering the fact that this year has been extremely challenging for everyone in the USA’s ESL industry.

Additionally, Rennert was very discouraged by the appeals hearing process. We cannot concur with the panel’s statement that Rennert was in agreement with the hearing format. Rennert did not agree to the format that consisted of two panel members being absent and participating by phone. This, we feel, was of great disadvantage to Rennert’s presentation due to a number of factors not listed here. We have already mentioned this grievance to ACCET. We humbly suggest that in the future ACCET reconsider its appeals process to require an all in-person hearing.
Finally, the December 21, 2017 letter mentions that the initial decision to defer reaccreditation was based on Standard II-A Governance, Standard III-A – Financial Stability, Standard III-B Financial Procedures, and Standard VIII-C-Student Progress. The initial Interim Report submitted by Rennert provided sufficient evidence to satisfy ACCET and the findings related to Standard II-A, III-B, and VIII-C. As the letter does not specifically state that these standards were satisfied, Rennert wishes to make sure that this fact is documented.

The second deferral on the decision to reaccredit Rennert was based solely on Standard III-A – Financial Stability. Rennert was in compliance with all other ACCET standards at the time of the denial of reaccreditation.

Rennert appreciates the opportunity to provide this statement as a follow up to ACCET’s decision letter and wishes also to acknowledge the support of the ACCET staff team.

Sincerely,

César Rennert
Founder and CEO