

Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE September 2007

Baccalaureate programs in Graphic Communications at Pennsylvania College of Technology and California University of Pennsylvania Earn National Accreditation

After completing extensive self-studies and hosting site visits by 3-member teams of industry and education experts, the Graphic Communications programs at Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) and California University of Pennsylvania (CUP) received national accreditation in September 2007. These two programs are among five, baccalaureate level, graphic communications programs nationwide to have received this distinction. The other three programs are at Ferris State University, Florida A&M University, and California Polytechnic State University. The New York City College of Technology and University of Houston are scheduled for site visits during 2008.

The accrediting agency, **Accreditation Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc. (ACCGC)**, awarded the academic accreditation. The ACCGC is an independent body under the secretariat services of the Printing Industries of America (PIA)/Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (GATF) in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. PIA/GATF is a world-renown research and education foundation focusing on the graphic arts. The ACCGC Council is comprised of 11 educators and eight industry personnel in the graphic communications field and is dedicated to the improvement and recognition of collegiate level curricula in graphic communications.

Formal presentations and recognition plaques were given to faculty representatives from both PCT and CUP during the September 9, 2007 annual ACCGC Board of Directors meeting that was held during Graph Expo. The ACCGC annual board meeting is always held at McCormick Place in Chicago during Graph Expo which is the largest graphic communications exposition held annually in the United States.

Dr. Harvey Levenson, leader of the team that visited California University of Pennsylvania, wrote: "The University is supportive of the of the Graphic Communications Technology program and provides the resources it needs. The program addresses the trends and issues of contemporary graphic communications and its faculty is hardworking, dedicated, and well liked by the students. The program has the potential of being one of the most viable programs of its kind in Pennsylvania and the surrounding states." The two other members of the team were Dr. Lenore D. Collins, Rhode Island College, and James A. Workman, Printing Industries of America/Graphic Arts Technical Foundation.

Dr. Ervin Dennis, chair of the 3-member team that visited the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA stated that the PCT graphic communications program has and continues to very adequately prepare graphic communications management

graduates who have and continue to be very successful in the industry. This program is excellent today, but has great potential for the future. The two other members of the team were Steven T. Fulleton, Eastman Kodak Company, and Dr. Daniel G. Wilson, Illinois State University.

The mission of the ACCGC is to provide viable, credible, and defensible accreditation standards that can be used to promote and encourage sound baccalaureate level education programs in graphic communications. In the accreditation process, the ACCGC strives to stimulate the exchange of ideas between administrative and instructional personnel in academia and personnel in the graphic communications profession.

The ACCGC reviews qualitative and quantitative evidence obtained through an institution's self-study and facts substantiated by a three-member visitation team in determining the accreditation status of an institution's graphic communications program. The academic program is evaluated in 14 areas: Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives, Governance/Administration, Financial Support, Equipment and Facilities, Staff Support Services, Curriculum, Instruction and Evaluation, Internships/Practicums/Coops, Industry Advisory Committee, Faculty, Faculty Evaluation, Student Records and Advising, and Graduate Placement and Follow-up.

For more information about the ACCGC, contact Dr. Ervin A. Dennis, Managing Director, at ea.dennis@cfu.net or Dr. Jerry J. Waite, President, at jwaite@uh.edu. The Council's web-site address is www.accgc.org

For more information about the Pennsylvania College of Technology program, contact Mr. James P. Lentz, Associate Professor, at jlentz@pct.edu or (570) 320-2400. For more information about the California University of Pennsylvania program, contact Dr. Stephen H. Whitehead, Associate Professor at whitehead@cup.edu or (724) 938-4085.