



ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR COLLEGIATE GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

www.accgc.org

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PRESS RELEASE
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Baccalaureate Programs in Graphic Communications at Florida A&M University Granted Re-Accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc. (ACCGC)



(left to right) Dr. Jerry J. Waite, ACCGC President and Professor of Technology, University of Houston (TX); Dr. Arvid V. Mukes, Director, Division of Graphic Communication, Florida A&M University; Dr. Penny K. Bennett, Chair of the ACCGC Site Visitation Team and Associate Professor, Graphic Communication Department, California Polytechnic State University; and Dr. James E. Hawkins, Dean, School of Journalism and Graphic Communication, Florida A&M University.

Graph Expo 2008, Chicago: After completing an extensive program self-study and hosting a campus visit by the ACCGC Site Visitation Team of industry and education experts, the Graphic Communications programs at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL received national

ACCGC re-accreditation status in September 2008. The FAMU Division of Graphic Communication includes two program majors – Graphic Design and Graphic Communication Technology.

A three-member site visitation team represented the 19-member ACCGC Board of Directors. Dr. Penny K. Bennett, Associate Professor, Graphic Communication Department, California Polytechnic State University, served as chair of the team. The two additional team members were Mr. Patrick Klarecki, Professor and Chair, Printing and Imaging Technology Management Department, Ferris State University (MI), and Mr. Larry C. Warter, Director, New Business Development, Fuji Graphic Systems Inc., Hanover Park, IL.

The Florida A&M University graphic communications programs were initially ACCGC accredited beginning September 1, 2002. At that time, a thorough review of their programs in graphic communications was evaluated against the 14 ACCGC accreditation standards. These detailed 14 standards include the review of mission statements & curricular outcomes; competency identification & assessment; administration support, equipment, & facilities; financial support; equipment & facilities; staff support services; curriculum & instruction; instruction & evaluation; internships/practicums/cooperative study; industry advisory committee(s); faculty: tenure/tenure track, adjunct, & graduate teaching assistants; faculty evaluation; student records & advising; and graduate placement & follow-up.

Team chair, Dr. Penny K. Bennett, stated that the "Florida A&M University Division of Graphic Communication has a solid program that provides essential training of future employees for the graphic communications industry. In the interest of continuous improvement, recommendations were made by the site visitation team that will allow the program to keep moving in a forward direction. Dr. Mukes should be commended for his leadership of this program through the accreditation process."

The Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc. (ACCGC) was formed in 1998 and is now incorporated as an IRS recognized non-profit 501 (c) (3) publicly supported organization. The overall mission of ACCGC is the improvement of collegiate graphic communications technology and management education through an accreditation program that includes 14 measurable standards. The 19-member Board of Directors includes eleven collegiate educators and eight graphic communications management personnel.

To date, five-baccalaureate graphic communications program have been granted ACCGC accreditation. They are: Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI; Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL; California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA; Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport, PA; and California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA. Administrators of two additional graphic communications baccalaureate degree programs, University of Wisconsin-Stout and University of Houston, have made formal application and site visitation teams will conduct campus visits during the 2008/2009 academic year. Additional applications for accreditation reviews are in process.

During the October 26, 2008 annual Board of Directors meeting in Chicago during Graph Expo, the Board members approved a revised Bylaws and Accreditation Manual that includes accreditation expansion to Associate Degree Graphic Communications Technology and Management programs. From this point forward, much effort will be placed into achieving ACCGC accreditation reviews for both associate and baccalaureate degree programs.

For additional information about ACCGC, please visit the ACCGC website at www.accgc.org