



Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE

November 2010

Baccalaureate Programs in Graphic Design and Graphic Communication at Florida A&M University Earn National ACCGC Re-Accreditation

After completing an extensive self-study and hosting a site visit by a team of industry and education experts, the Graphic Design and Graphic Communication programs at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida received national re-accreditation beginning September 1, 2010. These programs were initially accredited beginning September 1, 2002 and then re-accredited in 2008 for two years. The site visitation team noted some deficiencies in their 2008 report of which the Florida A&M University faculty and administration corrected, thus a follow-up review was conducted earlier this year and found that the programs were in full compliance with the ACCGC accrediting standards. Florida A&M University personnel are to be commended for their diligent efforts in making their programs stronger than ever.

These programs are among eight, baccalaureate level, graphic communications related programs nationwide to have received initial and re-accreditation distinction. The seven other programs are at Ferris State University, California Polytechnic State University, California University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania College of Technology, University of Wisconsin-Stout, New York City College of Technology, and University of Houston. The Graphic Arts Technology associate level program at Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois is currently under accreditation review by ACCGC.

The accrediting agency, **Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc. (ACCGC)**, awarded the academic accreditation. The ACCGC is an independent body professionally supported by leaders in the collegiate educational area and by the management personnel in the graphic communications industry. The ACCGC Council Board of Directors 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. ACCGC is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt body and is supported through industry contributions and educational accreditation fees.

Press Release – Florida A&M University, Division of Graphic Communication Programs

A formal presentation was made and a recognition plaque was given to faculty and administrative representatives from Florida A&M University during the October 3, 2010 annual ACCGC Board of Directors meeting that was held during Graph Expo 2010. The ACCGC annual board meeting is always held at McCormick Place in Chicago during the Graph Expo and Print shows which are the largest graphic communications expositions held annually in the United States.

Dean, Dr. James E. Hawkins, of the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication at Florida A&M University stated: "We are so pleased to learn the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications has voted to re-accredit our Division of Graphic Communication. This designation indicates our programs have demonstrated a commitment to the criteria essential to providing our students a high education and serving the dynamic graphic communications industry."

A plaque recognizing the four-year accreditation was presented to Dr. Hawkins during the ACCGC October 3, 2010 Board of Directors meeting. The accreditation period is retroactive to September 1, 2010 and continues through August 31, 2014.



Left to Right: Patrick Klarecki (ACCGC Team Member) Ferris State University; Dr. James E. Hawkins, Florida A&M University, Dr. Jerry J. Waite (ACCGC President), University of Houston (TX), and James A. Workman, (ACCGC Vice-President) Printing Industries of America.

In the "Re-Visitation Report," the team representative stated that "It was obvious the faculty and administration worked hard during the past two-years at improving the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication. The faculty within the Division of Graphic Communication expressed a

positive view of the future and appreciation for the collegial work done in the past. All involved with this improvement should be commended for their fine work.”

The mission of the ACCGC is to provide viable, credible and defensible accreditation standards that can be used to promote and encourage sound associate and 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 within the graphic communications industry.

The ACCGC reviews qualitative and quantitative evidence obtained through an institution’s self-study and facts substantiated by a three-member campus visitation team in determining the accreditation status of an institution’s graphic communications program. The academic program is evaluated in 14 areas: Mission Statements and Curricular Outcomes, Competency Identification and Assessment, Governance/Administration, Financial Support, Equipment and Facilities, Staff Support Services, Curriculum, Instruction and Evaluation, Internships/Practicums/Cooperative Study, Industry Advisory Committee(s), Faculty, Faculty Evaluation, Student Records and Advising, and Graduate Placement and Follow-up.

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

For more information about the Florida A&M University programs, please contact Dr. James E. Hawkins, Dean, School of Journalism and Graphic Communication, Florida A&M University, at james.hawkins@famuedu , (850) 599-3387.