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Southern Regional Accreditor Takes Action on Numerous Colleges

By Michael Sewall

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges took a number of actions this month, including placing two colleges on probation and reaffirming 40 colleges' accreditation.

The regional accreditor also granted accreditation to Ave Maria University, in Florida. Ave Maria, which was established by Thomas S. Monaghan, the founder of the Domino's Pizza chain, initially chose the American Academy for Liberal Education as its accreditor in 2008 while still seeking accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In another decision, Texas Southern University was removed from probation, after several years of operating under a shaky accreditation status. Texas Southern was placed on probation in December 2007 for financial problems. The university completed its fourth monitoring report this month to show compliance with the Principles of Accreditation and was thus taken off probation.

Saint Paul's College, in Virginia, and Concordia College, in Alabama, were both placed on probation, and the commission's disclosure statements with reasons for its actions will be released on Thursday. A full list of the commission's actions will be available online on Tuesday.

Here are other actions taken by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools last week.

Placed on warning status: Augusta Technical College, Augusta, Ga.; Bauder College, Atlanta; Erskine College, Due West, S.C.; Florida Christian College, Kissimmee, Fla.; Pamlico Community College, Grantsboro, N.C.; Randolph Community College, Asheboro, N.C.; and Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Removed from warning status: ECPI College of Technology, Virginia Beach, Va.; Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa, Va.; Eastfield College, Mesquite, Tex.; Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas; and Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Miss.

Granted initial accreditation: Ave Maria University, Naples, Fla.; Everglades University, Boca Raton, Fla.; and Watkins College of Art, Design & Film, Nashville.

Granted initial candidacy: Appalachian College of Pharmacy, Oakwood, Va.; Digital Media Arts College, Boca Raton, Fla.; Lanier Technical College, Oakwood, Ga.; South Georgia Technical College, Cordele, Ga.; and Southern Virginia University, Buena Vista, Va.

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