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**From:** Jones, Diane <Diane.Jones@ed.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 6:32 PM  
**To:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO  
**Subject:** RE: Time to Chat

Perfect! Will do!

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**From:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO [mailto:(b)(6)@who.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 6:26 PM  
**To:** Jones, Diane  
**Subject:** RE: Time to Chat

3:00 p.m. tomorrow. Call me when you get through security and I'll meet you to chat prior to the meeting.

Cordell Hull Room 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

WAVES - <https://events.whitehouse.gov/?rid=M9PPH284>

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**From:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 5:17 PM  
**To:** 'Jones, Diane'  
**Subject:** RE: Time to Chat

Diane –

(b)(6)

**Following Court Ruling, DeVos Orders Further Review of 2016 ACICS Petition**

>>[<<](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/following-court-ruling-devos-orders-further-review-2016-acics-petition)

“As directed by the court, Secretary DeVos will consider this evidence and data in connection with a review of the petition for continued recognition filed by ACICS in January 2016 and has ordered ACICS to file a written submission with the Department by no later than May 30, 2018.”

**Troubled for-profit college gatekeeper getting second chance under Trump administration**

>>[<<](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/reversing-key-obama-era-policy-devos-empowers-for-profit-college-gatekeepers-2018-04-04)

>>[<<](https://www.ed.gov/acics)

>>[<<](https://www.ice.gov/sevis/acics-loss-accreditation-recognition)

Here's a regulation explaining SEVP's (an ICE office) certification process in which accreditation plays a role:

A school catalogue, if one is issued, shall also be submitted with each petition. If not included in the catalogue, or if a catalogue is not issued, the school shall furnish a written statement containing information concerning the size of its physical plant, nature of its facilities for study and training, educational, vocational or professional qualifications of the teaching staff, salaries of the teachers, attendance and scholastic grading policy, amount and character of supervisory and consultative services available to students and trainees, and finances (including a certified copy of the accountant's last statement of school's net worth, income, and expenses). Neither a catalogue nor such a written statement need be included with a petition submitted by:

- (1) A school or school system owned and operated as a public educational institution or system by the United States or a State or a political subdivision thereof;
- (2) A school accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body; or
- (3) A secondary school operated by or as part of a school so accredited.

>>[<<https://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/SLB/HTML/SLB/0-0-0-1/0-0-0-11261/0-0-0-17197/0-0-0-20666.html](https://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/SLB/HTML/SLB/0-0-0-1/0-0-0-11261/0-0-0-17197/0-0-0-20666.html)<<,"

**From:** Jones, Diane  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 3:39 PM  
**To:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO  
**Subject:** Re: Time to Chat

Ok - will call you then!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2018, at 3:37 PM, Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov> wrote:

5:30 would be great. You can reach me on my cell at [redacted]

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**From:** Jones, Diane <[Diane.Jones@ed.gov](mailto:Diane.Jones@ed.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 3:37 PM  
**To:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Time to Chat

Yes - would 3:45pm or 5:30pm work?  
Diane

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2018, at 1:31 PM, Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO <[Robert.T.Goad2@who.eop.gov](mailto:Robert.T.Goad2@who.eop.gov)> wrote:

Diane –

Do you have 5-10 minutes to discuss the status of ACICS today? [redacted]  
[redacted]

# Small Non-Governmental Agency Due to Make Big Immigration Decisions

## FacebookTwitterGoogle+EmailPrint

By David North on May 3, 2018

Within the next few days, an obscure, non-governmental agency is expected to make some major decisions in the immigration field. It might:

- reduce the yearly admissions of perhaps 5,000 under-qualified foreign students;
- create an equal number of jobs for Americans;
- prevent the loss of tens of millions of dollars from the Medicare and Social Security systems, by
- closing two low-ranking American colleges, or visa mills.

Or it might do the reverse.

That a non-governmental agency is making such decisions relates to the casual way that the U.S. government manages (or presides over) the admission of foreign students. Decisions on which colleges and universities have the right to issue the visa-creating I-20 documents are left largely to state agencies and to the obscure non-governmental entity we referred to above, the Accrediting Council for Independent Schools and Colleges, ACICS. This is an organization that passes judgement on private, for-profit educational institutions and was created by the industry it more or less regulates.

In this connection, a month ago we wrote a CIS posting about "How Betsy DeVos Can Save Jobs for Americans and End a Raid on Social Security".

The Secretary of Education could meet those two goals, we wrote, by putting ACICS out of business; that agency had given the green light in the past to visa mills that cause the admission of marginal foreign students. The latter are more interested in the federally subsidized jobs that they can gain with those visas than they are in getting an education.

The subsidies, in the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, are open *only* to foreign alumni of American colleges (both excellent ones and the visa mills); they cannot be used by citizens or green card holders. The subsidies take the form of excusing the foreign grads (and their employers) from paying the usual payroll taxes, about 8.25 percent, which fund the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. (That these funds are used by our government to subsidize employers who prefer foreign college grads over American ones is an outrage waiting to happen.)

ACICS had been de-recognized under the Obama administration for the laxness of its rules. Secretary DeVos had the opportunity to keep ACICS out of business, but she decided to give it another chance.

The secretary's decision was not unexpected. She is probably the most devoted supporter of private-sector, including for-profit, education of anyone who has held her position.

But, in one of those laws-of-unintended-consequences incidents, she may have (totally accidentally, I am sure) actually helped to control the growth of the visa mills. Why is this a possibility?

Well, one way that ACICS could restore some credibility would be to stiffen its standards, so that it could say to those interested: "See, we can be trusted to root out the worst of the post-high-school education abusers." I have no way of knowing if this is part of the ACICS thought process, but it is reasonable to assume that it might be.

**Those pending decisions.** This brings us back to the pending decisions, to be announced soon by ACICS. They involve petitions for continued accreditation filed by two of the largest of the surviving visa mills, Virginia International University in Fairfax, Va., and Northwestern Polytechnic University in Fremont, Calif. If ACICS concludes, as I think it should, that these are not real universities, ACICS would prevent them from admitting thousands of marginal foreign students, prevent those students from taking jobs that could be filled by legal residents of this country, and prevent the loss of millions from the trust funds for the elderly.

Will ACICS see the situation that way? We will know soon.

Meanwhile, the signs are positive. In recent months ACICS has made three decisions to deny accreditation to other visa mills. In two of the three cases the schools have been closed, and we are waiting to see the outcome with the third. ACICS has not been bragging about these decisions, and I have seen no reporting on what may become a trend, if a highly specialized one.

Let's look at these five institutions, the three where decisions have been made and then the pending two, all of which had accreditation from ACICS, and only ACICS.

**1. The American College of Commerce and Technology (ACCT)**, in Falls Church, Va., lost its ACICS accreditation, did not choose to appeal that decision (thus confirming that decision), had also run into intense scrutiny by State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV), an arm of state government, and was then closed by Virginia state authorities effective December 30, 2017.

We are getting into some double negatives here: since ACICS was not then recognized by the federal Department of Education (DoEd), its negative decision on ACCT was regarded as not relevant by the state. Both decisions ran in the same direction, however.

**2. Silicon Valley University (SVU)**, in San Jose, Calif., had its ACICS accreditation revoked on December 7, 2017. It failed to close, however, until we informed the state that it was still operating; a couple of days later it shut its doors, apparently on the state's orders. This is the visa mill in which the retiring president gave himself a \$12.5 million (apparently no-interest) loan on the way out the door.

In both Virginia and in California an institution needs accreditation by a DoEd-recognized accreditation agency in order to secure the state license. Some states don't have that requirement, nor does the Department of Homeland Security.

**3.** While the Center had not named the institution, as we had no independent data and our source wanted to remain anonymous, we now can reveal that our posting on an unnamed visa mill in Chicago related to the **BIR Training Centers**. The four BIR Training Centers were denied a renewal of accreditation by ACICS on April 19; this decision is appealable to its Review Board of Appeals.

**4. Virginia International University (VIU)**, in Fairfax, Va., is on the ACICS list for renewal or non-renewal of accreditation, with the decision scheduled to take place in "Winter 2018". BIR Training is on the same list and a decision on it has been made, as noted above. We understand that the ACICS decision was postponed when a former member of the VIU board provided ACICS with some new information on VIU.

VIU, as we have noted before, is connected to the conservative Islamic cult run by self-exiled Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen. We gather that it has reduced its staff lately, apparently reflecting lower revenues, and that it has been forced by SCHEV to file a "teachout" plan in case it has to close. These plans ensure, for the benefit of the students, an orderly termination of their educational programs. Such a mandate (imposed earlier on ACCT) is not a happy sign regarding VIU's institutional health.

**5. Northwestern Polytechnic University (NPU)** is in the same position with ACICS as is VIU. It is on the "Winter 2018" list of decisions to be made, and if anything, is in more trouble. This is the case because the process by which ACICS decided to renew its accreditation a few years ago was the subject of a blistering expose by BuzzFeed.

The subhead for Molly Hensley-Clancy's BuzzFeed article was: "How one California University faked students' scores, skated by immigration authorities – and made a fortune in the process."

NPU is also on the receiving end of a class action lawsuit contending that a number of students had been hurt by the school's policies. I think this is the first and only use of the class action technique against one of the visa mills.

One of the ironies of all this is that Secretary DeVos' decision to continue the life of ACICS, at least for a while, means that its decisions made on specific visa mills – previously irrelevant because ACICS was not recognized by DoEd -- suddenly have significance, and some visa mills have suffered thereby.

**What's next?** I am no fan of either ACICS or most of for-profit higher education, but if ACICS confirms its denial of BIR Training Centers, and terminates the accreditation for VIU and NPU – and maybe some other visa mills – it will have made a series of sound decisions *and* will have strengthened its own case for staying alive.

Further, Secretary DeVos can chalk up a sound public policy decision, if only by accident.



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**From:** Jones, Diane <Diane.Jones@ed.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 12:20 PM  
**To:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO  
**Subject:** RE: Good to Meet You

I'm bad at calls on the fly, too, for the same reason as you – our schedules are just too full!!! I'll send an invite for 2pm today. I'll call you then.

Diane

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**From:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO [mailto:(b)(6)@who.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 7:35 AM  
**To:** Jones, Diane  
**Subject:** RE: Good to Meet You

Diane:

I hope all is well.

My apologies for not being able to connect yesterday. Yesterday was a bit hectic after the early morning.

Please let me know if or when you can talk today. I have good windows from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. (If helpful to you, we can set a calendar appointment. I know I am bad at calls on the fly, especially lately.)

Looking forward to talking,

JZ

w: (202)  
c: (202)



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**From:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:55 AM  
**To:** 'Jones, Diane'  
**Subject:** RE: Good to Meet You

Diane:

Good to hear from you.

I just tried to call you, but your voicemail was full. I also have to run to a 10:00 a.m. meeting, but I should be free to talk by 11:00/11:15 a.m. Any chance I can call you back around then? If that doesn't work, I should be generally free until around 3:00 p.m., but from recent experience, I tend to be bad with calls on the fly.

Talk soon.

JZ

w: (202)  
c: (202)



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**From:** Jones, Diane  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:36 AM  
**To:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO  
**Subject:** RE: Good to Meet You

Hi John,  
I just left you a voice mail but wanted to follow up with an email, too. Another issue has come up that I'd like to discuss with you today if possible. We received a congressional letter that requires a response, but I think it may be best to work with you to develop that response and we will likely need to loop in other agencies as well.  
Thanks,  
Diane  
202-453-7333

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**From:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO [mailto:(b)(6)@who.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2018 6:18 AM  
**To:** Jones, Diane; Hill, Paula  
**Cc:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO; Wold, Theo J. EOP/WHO; Morgen, Hunter M. EOP/WHO; Gavoor, Aram A. EOP/WHO; Foley, David A. EOP/WHO  
**Subject:** RE: Good to Meet You

Thanks, Diane.

Paula:

Good to connect with you. Please let me know when works best for Diane, and I can send out the WAVES link and calendar appointment. (I am more than happy to discuss logistics offline a little later this morning as well, if a live conversation works better for you.)

JZ  
w: (202) (b)(6)  
c: (202) (b)(6)

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**From:** Jones, Diane  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2018 8:09 AM  
**To:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO  
**Cc:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO ; Wold, Theo J. EOP/WHO ; Morgen, Hunter M. EOP/WHO ; Gavoor, Aram A. EOP/WHO ; Foley, David A. EOP/WHO ; Hill, Paula  
**Subject:** Re: Good to Meet You

Hi John,  
I'm adding in Paula Hill to help with scheduling at my end. Looking forward to our meeting.  
Diane

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 14, 2018, at 8:05 AM, Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

Diane:

Please forgive the delay on my end.

How does next week (Monday 6/18-Friday 6/22) look for you for the meeting we discussed below? At this point, Monday 6/18-Wednesday 6/20 work best on this end. If you have a preferred window during those first three days next week (or will be in the building for something else), with a couple of scattered appointments, I can make whatever works for you work.

Thanks again.

JZ

w: (202) [redacted]  
c: (202) [redacted]

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**From:** Jones, Diane <Diane.Jones@ed.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2018 8:52 AM  
**To:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>  
**Cc:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>; Wold, Theo J. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>; Morgen, Hunter M. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>; Gavor, Aram A. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>; Foley, David A. EOP/WHO <[redacted]@who.eop.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Good to Meet You

Hi John,  
Sorry for the delay in my response. Our advisory board on accreditation is meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, and I need to be there, so would it be possible to meet next week?  
Diane

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**From:** Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO [mailto:[redacted]@who.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 3:05 PM  
**To:** Jones, Diane  
**Cc:** Goad, Robert T. EOP/WHO; Wold, Theo J. EOP/WHO; Morgen, Hunter M. EOP/WHO; Gavor, Aram A. EOP/WHO; Foley, David A. EOP/WHO  
**Subject:** Good to Meet You

Ms. Jones:

It was good to meet you last Friday to discuss ACICS, and thanks again for your time.

Per our conversation, I was planning on hosting a meeting with you and my main points of contact at Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), who I know would be interested in what we discussed. The rest of this week does not look good on our end, but I can probably do any day next week that works for you, with the exception of Friday 5/25. Please let me know what day, if any, works for you next week. We can always look past next week, if necessary.

Thanks in advance for your assistance, and please feel free to call me if you want to discuss offline. All of my work contact information is below.

John A. Zadrozny  
Special Assistant to the President  
Justice and Homeland Security