



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

APR 30 2001

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Mr. Andrés Reyes Rodriguez
Presidente
Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior
Ave. Enrique Jiménez Moya esq. Juan de Dios Ventura Simó
5to. Piso, Centro de los Héroeos
Santo Domingo,
República Dominicana

Dear Mr. Reyes:

In October 1997, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the standards used by the Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior (CONES) to accredit medical schools in the Dominican Republic were comparable to the standards used to accredit medical schools in the United States. As a result of that determination, medical schools in the Dominican Republic that were accredited by CONES could apply to participate in the U.S. Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. If a medical school met the eligibility criteria to participate in the FFEL program, then American students studying at that medical school could apply to receive FFEL loans to assist them in meeting their educational expenses.

On March 9, 2001, the NCFMEA met in Washington, D.C., to review, among other things, the annual report submitted by the Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior (CONES) that described its accreditation activities involving the medical schools in the Dominican Republic. Based on the information in the report, the NCFMEA members were not clear about the extent of the ongoing monitoring being done by CONES and the status of the Dominican Association of Self-Study and Accreditation (ADDAAC), particularly since the Committee had previously requested, but had not received, a copy of the medical accreditation standards developed by the ADDAAC. To clarify their understanding of the current status of accreditation activities in your country, the NCFMEA is requesting that the Dominican Republic submit a new report for review at the NCFMEA's September 2001 meeting, demonstrating that CONES is actively engaged in accreditation activities, with specific information on site visits conducted, accreditation decisions reached, any changes to accreditation standards, and information on the relationship between CONES and the Dominican Association of Self-Study and Accreditation.

Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation.

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In order for the NCFMEA to review the report at its September 2001 meeting, the report must be received by the U.S. Department of Education by August 1, 2001. Please send the requested report to the Executive Director of the NCFMEA at the address below:

Bonnie LeBold
Executive Director, NCFMEA
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street NW - Room 7007
Washington, DC 20006-7563
U.S.A.

If you have any questions regarding the NCFMEA's request for additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Bonnie_LeBold@ed.gov (e-mail).

The Committee further indicated that it may request that the Dominican Republic submit a new application for the Committee's reassessment of the comparability of its standards to those used in the U.S. if the members' concerns about ongoing monitoring are not addressed by the information in the requested report. In case questions arise during the September 2001 meeting, it would be very helpful if a representative of the Dominican Republic could attend that meeting, if at all possible. Ms. LeBold will contact you in late spring or early summer with details regarding the September meeting.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. We appreciate your cooperation in providing the requested information.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige

cc: Mr. Emilio Huyke
President
Edu-Con Educational Consultants