

# TIFFIN

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## UNIVERSITY

**Real Connections. Real Results.**

Paul Marion, Ph.D.  
President

January 18, 2008

Dr. Steven Crowe  
Executive Director  
The Higher Learning Commission  
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools  
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, IL 60602-2504

Dear Dr. Crowe:

Tiffin University is authorized by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to offer the Associate of Arts in General Studies degree in the online format. I am writing to notify you that this program will be delivered through an organizational entity named Ivy Bridge College of Tiffin University, which has been created as a joint venture between Tiffin University and a company known as Ivy Bridge, LLC.

Tiffin University will remain fully and exclusively in control of all academic aspects of this degree program, as well as the financial aid, bursar, library, and bookstore functions. The program will be delivered under the auspices of and in the name of Tiffin University, and graduates will earn a Tiffin University degree. Ivy Bridge, LLC, which is owned by individuals with impressive academic records and careers in higher education, will provide financial support for the development and delivery of the program. In addition to the academic content delivered by Tiffin University, the program will also include a system of student mentoring and academic support, as well as articulation agreements with universities throughout the U.S. that will allow the graduates of this program to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree.

We believe that there are many students throughout the nation who can benefit from a high-quality online Associate of Arts in General Studies degree program that includes a high level of direct student contact and support. This type of outreach to a student population that may be left behind by the traditional higher education delivery systems is well aligned with the mission and values of Tiffin University.

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We have developed this joint venture in careful consideration of the *HLC Policies Regarding Institutional Dynamics* and the Commission's *Good Practices in Contractual Arrangements Involving Courses and Programs*. Although the arrangements do not require a filing with the HLC, we wanted to assure that you are aware of this project and our consideration of its relationship to Tiffin University accredited status. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Marion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M".

Paul Marion  
President