

December 2, 2011

Dr. John Taylor
Vice President for Accreditation Relations
NCA Higher Learning Commission
230 S. LaSalle St., Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1413

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Several years ago, Tiffin University (TU) entered into a joint venture with Ivy Bridge, Inc. (now named Altius Education) to create Ivy Bridge College , LLC (now named Altius University, LLC) to market and deliver several of TU's online degree programs. Information about this partnership was provided in a letter dated January 18, 2008 from me to Dr. Steven Crowe, in a letter dated June 15, 2009 from me to you, and in the Self Study Report and other materials that were reviewed in 2010 by the HLC visiting team that recommended continuing accreditation for TU through 2020.

This joint venture was developed in careful consideration of the relevant HLC policies and procedures. TU is fully and exclusively in control of all academic aspects of the degree programs, as well as the financial aid, bursar, registrar, and library functions, and graduates earn Tiffin University degrees. In addition to the academic content delivered by TU, the program also includes a system of student mentoring and academic support, as well as articulation agreements with more than 100 universities throughout the U.S. that allow the graduates of our associate's degree programs to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree. Our partner, Altius Education, has provided the start-up funding for this venture.

The enrollment has grown to more than 3,000 students and the next step is to apply for independent accreditation, with Altius University as the name to be used. Because the headquarters of Altius Education are located in California, the application will be made for accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Although the initial application to WASC has not yet been submitted, I am writing to you now to inform you of our plan. If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul Marion
President