

**NEW OPERATING AND/OR DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY
FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS
CONTINUATION OF OCTOBER 6, 2015 MEETING**

Submitted for: Action

Summary: New independent institutions, institutions planning to operate at a new location, including a location outside the higher education region of original operating authority, and out-of-state institutions planning to operate in Illinois for the first time are required to obtain authorization to operate. These institutions also are required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

These items were tabled for further review at the October 6, 2015 meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Following are updated summaries with additional information based on Board Member discussion.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the recommendations to grant degree-granting authority and/or operating authority to the following institutions:

Not-For-Profit

Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential
DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential

- Operating Authority

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**NEW OPERATING AND/OR DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY
FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has responsibility for administration of The Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005) and The Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010). Under these statutes, new independent institutions, institutions planning to operate at a new location, including a location outside the higher education region of original operating authority, and out-of-state institutions planning to operate in Illinois for the first time are required to obtain authorization to operate. These institutions also are required to obtain authorization for each new degree program.

Applications for new operating and degree-granting authority submitted by independent Illinois institutions and out-of-state institutions are reviewed by the staff. Recommendations are developed by applying criteria for operating and/or degree-granting authority, which are defined in the rules adopted for administration of the statutes and Board policies on assessment of student learning and specialized accreditation requirements for student licensure. These criteria encompass educational objectives, institution and degree titles, curricula, facilities, faculty and administrator qualifications, student policies, publications, records, compliance with pertinent laws, and fiscal stability. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials, responses to questions, and site visits. Out-of-region sites are defined as sites located within an IBHE approval region other than the region within which an institution's original operating authority was granted. There are ten IBHE approval regions; each is coterminous with one or more community college districts. Approval to operate within a new approval region entitles an institution to operate throughout the region, and not solely at the site at which the institution initially applied.

This item includes recommendations to grant operating and/or degree-granting authority to two institutions.

Not-for-Profit Executive Summary

Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential

- Operating Authority

Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential (Wright) requests authorization to operate in the Chicago Region. If approved, the institution will seek authorization from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to offer postsecondary degrees. Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential, Inc., is a division of the Wright Foundation for the Realization of Human Potential, a non-profit registered in the state of Illinois. Wright received approval to operate and grant degrees by the Educational Approval Board of the State of Wisconsin in 2008. Wright currently offers a Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership and Coaching, a Doctorate in Transformational Leadership and Coaching, and graduate certificates in transformational

leadership, transformational coaching, social intelligence, and emotional intelligence at the main campus in Wisconsin. Wright is seeking authorization to operate in the State of Illinois in the Chicago region.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment A.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants to Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential Authorization to Operate in the Chicago Region subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential
445 East Ohio Street, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60611
CEO: Dr. Robert Wright

Seeking Operating Authority: Chicago Region

Institutional Accreditation: Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

Background and History

Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential (Wright) was founded by Bob Wright, Judith Wright, and Michael Zwell in 2006. The institution received approval to operate and grant degrees by the Educational Approval Board of the State of Wisconsin in 2008. In December 2013, Wright was accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) to award master's degrees, doctorate degrees, and graduate certificates. Wright's programs are designed for adult learners who hold a bachelor's degree and desire to pursue graduate work in transformational leadership and coaching. Students admitted to the institution learn coaching and leadership skills to enhance their various professional careers including business, human relations, and education. Wright is seeking authorization to operate in the State of Illinois as Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential.

Institutional Data

Criterion 1030.30(a)(2)(D) provides that success in student progression and graduation, and success rates in programs preparing students for certification and licensure, shall be consistent with expectations in higher education and the appropriate related field of study. At a minimum, the Board shall consider the following factors, based on results for similar institutions: (i) Graduation rates, degree completion rates, retention rates, and pass rates for licensure and certification. (ii) Success rate, which shall be, at a minimum, higher than that of the lowest quartile of these measures for similar Illinois institutions defined as open versus competitive enrollment institutions and primarily associate versus primarily baccalaureate granting institutions. Exceptions may be made to the lowest quartile if an institution is above the national average for these measures using the same comparison categories of institutions.

There are no outcomes data reported for Wright because the institution has not operated as a degree-granting institution in Illinois.

Mission and Objectives

Criterion 1030.60(a)(1) provides that the objectives of the degree program(s) must be consistent with what the degree program title(s) imply.

Criterion 1030.60(a)(2) provides that the requested degree program shall be congruent with the purpose, goals, objectives and mission of the institution.

Wright's mission is to prepare and develop professionals into transformational leaders and coaches. The institution plans to accomplish its mission by "integrating effective human emergence technologies and relevant research to cultivate scholar practitioners to become leaders and coaches." Students and members of the Wright community are encouraged to engage in individual-focused transformation and leadership as they provide coaching and support services.

Curriculum/Assessment

Criterion 1030.60(a)(3) provides that the caliber and content of the curriculum shall assure that the stated degree objectives for which the program is offered will be achieved.

Admission

To be eligible for admission, all applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Applicants are required to submit official transcripts no later than 30 days after the start of the semester. International applicants must have their transcripts evaluated for degree equivalency to an accredited US degree. All applicants must submit a current resume.

Curriculum

Upon approval of the operating authority, Wright will seek authorization to grant degrees at the master's and doctoral levels. Wright intends to seek authorization for a Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership and Coaching and a Doctorate in Transformational Leadership and Coaching. The institution also plans to offer graduate certificates in Transformational Leadership and Coaching. Due to the specialized nature of the graduate programs, Wright will not accept transfer from other postsecondary institutions. All Wright credits earned from the certificate, master's, and doctorate programs must be towards the completion of a Wright degree or certificate and must be earned at the institution. Students will study in both Chicago and Wisconsin in programs that are part online and part in person. Students will have access to both the protections afforded by the rules of operation in the State of Illinois and under the authority of the IBHE, the State of Wisconsin, and the Education Advisory Board (EAB).

The program is, like many contemporary higher education programs, hybrid comprising both face-to-face and online study. Students are predominantly professional adults, balancing full-time work with school and other commitments. The institution offers highly structured asynchronous online interaction with faculty and peers punctuated by intensive weekend sessions at the Wisconsin campus. Staff have reviewed this aspect of the current operations and the plans for expansion of educational opportunities once Wright has authority to operate in Illinois and have determined that the proposal meets the criteria established in Code and follows current norms of postsecondary education. Intensive residential sessions are conducted in Wisconsin monthly and include activities such as faculty lecture and discussion, group work, and assessments. In addition to academic instruction, students interact with their peers, receive tutoring from their faculty or mentors, and use the library or other campus resources during residential weekends. The remainder of the academic engagement activities are conducted asynchronously online or synchronously by phone, at times mutually agreed up on by students and faculty. Wright uses Desire2Learn as its learning management system (D2L LMS). Instructors enforce strict attendance requirements for the online portion of each course, which are described in detail in course syllabi.

Assessment of Student Learning

The institution has established policies for assessment of student learning outcomes. The

assessment methods will be mainly through written assignments and research. Assignments are structured to ensure that they address each learning outcome. Due to the nature of the programs, mentoring sessions are used to teach students leadership and coaching skills. During the mentoring sessions, students regularly receive feedback on their academic progress in relation to course and program learning objectives. Student progress on these learning outcomes is discussed in faculty meetings and recommendations are made on how to improve learning outcomes.

Program Assessment

The institution has established policies for reviewing programs for continuous improvement. Wright participates in an annual Campus Effectiveness Planning (CEP) process to monitor and improve programs and students' learning outcomes. The CEP policies, process, and procedures are managed by the Campus Director. Examples of metrics analyzed include: evaluation of student characteristics; evaluation of program characteristics; student, graduate, and employee satisfaction survey results; retention rates; placement rates; graduation rates; and evaluation of student learning outcomes. The CEP metrics are reviewed twice a year and are discussed during weekly executive meetings.

Programs are continuously reviewed and monitored by the Campus Director for improvement. In addition to using direct measure such as written assignments and exams to evaluate student achievement with course learning outcomes, the university also employs indirect measure such as student, graduate, and employer surveys. The results of the survey data are used to make decisions on program development and improvements.

Facilities (space, equipment, instructional materials)

Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the institution shall have adequate and suitable space, equipment and instructional materials to provide education of suitable quality.

Wright currently has an agreement to lease classroom, community, and additional office space in Chicago upon approval by IBHE. The Chicago campus will be located in a 40-story mixed-use building with adequate space for delivery of the programs. The spaces available include five classrooms that can accommodate approximately 185 students, two administrative office spaces with open desk seating for up to 14 staff, two conference areas, three lobby/reception areas, and 19 small and medium sized rooms suitable for use for staff offices, mentoring and coaching sessions, small group meetings, library facilities, and storage.

Wright students will also have 24/7 online access to Badgerlink, the State of Wisconsin's online library of contents including 8,000 full-text magazines and journals provided by the Educational Communications Board, Wisconsin Media Lab, EBSCO, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., Gale/Cengage Learning, Heritage Microfilm, Inc., LearningExpress, LLC, ProQuest, Soundzabound Music, TeachingBooks.net, LLC, Visual Learning Systems, and the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Students at the Chicago campus will have access to the physical library at the main campus in Wisconsin. The institution has plans to equip a physical library at the Chicago campus with relevant books and course materials.

Students have multiple ways of communicating with vital institutional points of contact. The main campus number – which is a landline – is published in the catalog, website, letterhead, syllabi, and all other official publications and communications. Inquiries and administrative calls ring to the main campus and if there is no answer, the electronic switchboard routes the call to the appropriate individual or department. The phone attendant attempts to locate staff who are away

from their desk via cell phone. In addition, cellular phone numbers and e-mail addresses of faculty and key administrators are published in the catalog and syllabi. Faculty and administrators are expected to respond to student calls and messages within two business days, although most questions are answered within a few hours. IBHE staff have visited the Chicago offices and have verified that the main phone line rings to a typical multi-line phone most receptionists would have at schools, colleges, and universities in Illinois, as well as most business offices across the country. Each staff member's workstation has a phone (desks are equipped with standard phone, computer and other items found in any administrative office space). Administrative offices in Chicago are sufficient to meet the needs of the institution currently and will be sufficient to accommodate expansion. Students have sufficient means to contact institutional personnel.

Faculty and Staff

Criterion 1030.60(a)(5) provides that the education, experience, and other qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors and instructors shall ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the program.

The institution has faculty members that have the training, credentials, and other required qualifications to provide quality instructions to students. There are policies in place to ensure that faculty and staff have the necessary qualifications to support the development of instruction at the Chicago campus.

Fiscal/Personnel Resources

Criterion 1030.60(a)(8) provides that fiscal and personnel resources shall be sufficient to permit the institution to meet obligations to continuing programs while assuming additional resource responsibilities for the new program.

Wright has submitted five-year fiscal plans that show operational revenue will exceed expenditure for the projected five years of operation.

Accreditation/Licensure

As pursuant to this application for operating authority, neither specialized accreditation nor licensure is required.

Program Information

Criterion 1030.60(a)(7) provides that the information which the institution provides for students and the public shall accurately describe the degree programs offered, program objectives, length of program, schedule of tuition, fees, and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of study, cancellation and refund policies, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the program or course of instruction as are likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll. Such information shall be available to prospective students prior to enrollment.

The institution submitted detailed and adequate information on the institution's academic policies, tuition, fees, and refund policies, admissions procedures, and other relevant information necessary for prospective students to make informed decisions on enrollments.

Staff Conclusion

The staff concludes that Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential DBA Wright Graduate School for the Realization of Human Potential meets the criteria in Sections 1030.30 and 1030.60 of the rules to implement The Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005) and The Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.

