



July 12, 2018

Mr. Ladelle Harmon, Jr.  
Director of Institutional Effectiveness  
McDowell Technical Community College  
54 College Drive  
Marion, NC 28752

Dear Mr. Ladelle:

Thank you for your letter of March 12, 2018, notifying the Commission of the intent to discontinue participation in the Foothills Surgical Technology Consortium made up of McDowell Technical Community College (McDowell Tech), Cleveland Community College, and Isothermal Community College, effective February 8, 2018.

**We acknowledge the information and will add it to our files.**

Your letter also noted that upon Board of Trustees action to discontinue participation, the Diploma in Surgical Technology would no longer be offered as it was a part of the consortium. Two students are currently enrolled, and no new students will be admitted fall 2018. Your e-mail of July 6, 2018, confirmed that each school in the consortium awards the diploma although your letter states that only general education courses are taught by McDowell Tech faculty; core courses are taught by faculty at Cleveland Community College as the lead consortium agency.

Since the institution awards a credential through the consortium, it has an affirmative obligation to secure approval to close the program.

**Please submit a teach-out plan for the Diploma in Surgical Technology.**

**We defer action on the closure of the Diploma in Surgical Technology pending review of the teach-out plan noted above.**

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Sightler, Ph.D.  
Director of Substantive Change

KWS/MAC:efk

cc: Dr. John D. Gossett, President  
Dr. Denise Y. Young

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