



Tab 23

Appointments to Proprietary School Advisory Committee

Coordinating Board for Higher Education

March 4, 2020

BACKGROUND

The Proprietary School Advisory Committee (PSAC) is a statutorily established committee consisting of seven members serving three-year terms appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education and Workforce Development (§ 173.614, RSMo.). This agenda item informs the Coordinating board of recent appointments to the committee.

The statute defines general eligibility requirements for committee members as individual proprietors, general partners of a partnership, or managerial employees of certified schools. In addition, the statute requires at least three members of the committee represent degree-granting schools, at least one of which must grant a baccalaureate or higher level degree. The statute charges the committee with the following responsibilities:

- Advise the Coordinating Board if the administration of the proprietary school certification programs;
- Make recommendations with respect to the rules and regulations establishing minimum standards of operation; and,
- Advise the Coordinating Board with respect to formal grievances against certified schools.

CURRENT STATUS

The Commissioner of Higher Education recently appointed three individuals to fill vacant terms on the PSAC. Those appointments were for Mr. Eric Adams of Grand River Welding Institute, Mr. Ramsey Atieh of the American Business and Technology University, and Ms. Michaelle Holland of Pinnacle Career Institute. Background information on these individuals is provided in Attachment A, and a complete list of PSAC members is provided in Attachment B.

NEXT STEPS

DHEWD staff will continue to seek an eligible individual to fill the final PSAC member vacancy and to identify qualified candidates for future vacancies.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. New Appointee Background Information
- B. PSAC Membership Roster

Tab 23 Attachment A New Appointee Background Information

Appointments to Proprietary School Advisory Committee

Eric Adams is the founder and president of Grand River Welding Institute and is a Master Welder with more than 20 years of experience in the welding industry. He is a graduate of the Missouri Welding Institute. Mr. Adams has completed welding / pipe-fitting in nuclear power plants, ethanol and bio-diesel facilities, as well as breweries and food production plants across the country. Grand River Welding Institute has been approved to operate since 2018 and offers certificate programs in welding technology in the Brookfield, Missouri area (Linn County). The school participates in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Vocational Rehabilitation funding program.

Ramsey Atieh is the president of the American Business & Technology University (ABTU) and has an extensive background in private career education especially distance education. Mr. Atieh earned his BS and Master's degrees in Education from Northwest Missouri State University and is pursuing his doctorate in education from the University of Missouri. ABTU offers synchronous and asynchronous online programs at the certificate through master's degree levels in a variety of fields including business, information technology, and medical assisting. The school is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) and has been continuously certified to operate in Missouri since April 2002.

Michaëlle Holland is the president of Pinnacle Career Institute. She previously served as the campus director for National American University and for the Lincoln School of Commerce (Nebraska). Ms. Holland earned her baccalaureate degree from National American University, her Master's degree in Education from MidAmerican Nazarene University, and is currently ABD in her education doctorate from Northcentral University. Pinnacle Career Institute offers certificate and associate degrees in allied health fields as well as a Wind Turbine Technician certificate program. The school is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and has been continuously certified to operate in Missouri since 1998.

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
March 4, 2020

Tab 23 Attachment B PSAC Membership Roster

Appointments to Proprietary School Advisory Committee

Mr. Eric Adams
President
Grand River Welding Institute
103 N. Livingston Street
Brookfield, MO 64628
(Term Expires 12/31/2020)

Mr. Ramsey Atieh
President
American Business & Technology University ++
1018 West St. Maartens Dr.
St. Joseph, MO 64056
(Term Expires 12/31/2020)

Dr. Jamie Dodd
Vice President – Operations
Hope Montessori Educational Institute
1799 Lake Saint Louis Blvd.
Lake St. Louis, MO 63367
(Term expires 12/31/2021)

Ms. Michaelle Holland
President
Pinnacle Career Institute +
10301 Hickman Mills Drive
Kansas City, MO 64137
(Term expires 12/31/2022)

Mr. Barry Mannion
President
W.T.I. - Joplin
1715 North Rangeline Road
Joplin, MO 64801
(Term expires 12/31/2021)

Ms. Emily Witt
Chief Administrative Officer
St. Louis School of Phlebotomy
3738 Chouteau Avenue, Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63110
(Term expires 12/31/2020)

Vacancy
(Term expires 12/31/2022)

+ Degree-granting
++ Baccalaureate and graduate degree-granting