

# PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of The Texas A&M University System

July 2, 2007

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan  
President, Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

As records of the Commission on Colleges (COC), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will reveal, Prairie View A&M University had a presence in the Dallas Metroplex in the late 70s that lasted until 1981 when the University voluntarily discontinued its academic program offerings which, at that time, included undergraduate law enforcement (now criminal justice) and both graduate educational administration and counseling.

On December 20, 2001, Prairie View A&M University notified the COC of its plan to return to the area again offering master's degree courses in educational administration and counseling. While it appeared that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board had not instituted rules governing how long an institution could cease operation of distance site programs before that authority would expire, the University notified both The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Commission on Colleges (COC), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools of its plans to return to the Dallas Metroplex.

Beginning in the Spring of 2002, Prairie View A&M University's Dallas Metroplex site was at Paul Quinn College located at 3837 Simpson Stuart Road, Dallas, Texas 75241. With the exception of a few courses that were offered by interactive television, the mode of delivery was face-to-face. Within one year, however, the need for additional interactive video capability became evident so space was leased in the nearby Dallas Urban League at 4315 South Lancaster Road, Dallas, Texas 75216—7105.

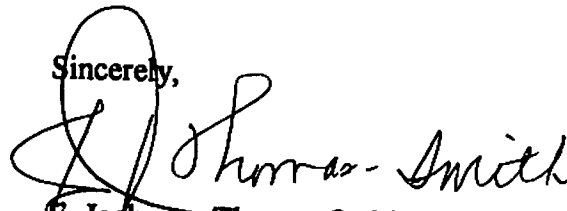
In 2005, as the lease agreement with Paul Quinn College neared the time for review prior to renewal, the University entered into agreement with Cedar Valley College to lease space at its Center at Cedar Hill, 207 North Cannady Road, Cedar Hill, Texas 75104. The location is 12.1 miles from the Paul Quinn College location.

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While the University notified the COC of its initial location, the Paul Quinn College, it did not notify it of its 2005 move from Paul Quinn College to the Center at Cedar Hill. Further, it did not notify the COC that interactive video course sections were being offered at the Urban League site. For this oversight, the University is deeply apologetic and has instituted a method of auditing its compliance with such notification and approval procedures. Since its initial approval/accreditation as a member institution in 1934, Prairie View A&M University has endeavored to maintain fidelity to the criteria and now principles of the Commission on Colleges. The notification oversight was just that and not a blatant disregard for expected adherence to substantive change procedures. We realize that our oversight could negatively impact our ability to award federal financial aid to students enrolled in our University at the Dallas Metroplex site and surely we wish to do nothing that would remove educational access for students who are doing the right thing, pursuing increased knowledge in their professions.

Having the COC respond positively to our notification of location changes would be appreciated. If additional information is needed, please contact me at [ejthomas-smith@pvamu.edu](mailto:ejthomas-smith@pvamu.edu) or (936) 261- 2175.

Sincerely,



**E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith**  
Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic and Student Affairs

xc: Dr. Rudolph Jackson, Vice President, COC,SACS  
Dr. George C. Wright, President  
Dr. Michael McFrazier, Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs  
Dr. Carlos Clark, Assistant Provost for Student Financial Aid