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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** CIE Licensed Institutions  
**FROM:** Meredith L. Pelton, Executive Director  
**DATE:** September 19, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** CIE Looks to the Future

Several changes have occurred recently within the Commission, and I would like to bring you up to date.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Commission's new Executive Director. Education has been a focus in my professional life and my experience as a middle school teacher and attorney has fueled my desire to improve educational opportunities for all students. I look forward to working with each of you to educate students and help them better their futures.

Sam Ferguson, Executive Director Emeritus, is assisting me with the transition. Sam has served this Commission faithfully for many years and the State of Florida appreciates his contributions to the private postsecondary sector. Recently, Sam was recognized by the Florida Department of Education State Board for his service and was presented with a plaque by Education Commissioner Manny Diaz. Carrying the torch forward is a tremendous responsibility and privilege, and I greatly appreciate Sam's words of wisdom and advice.

Seven new Commissioners were recently appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis. The Commissioners are focusing primarily on students and student empowerment based on data driven outcomes, as well as holding institutions accountable for those outcomes. As a regulatory body, the Commission intends to ensure that this sector's students are well prepared to be competitive in Florida's workforce and contribute to its strong economy. I am asking Commission staff to identify any areas that can be improved, either through legislative or rulemaking action, to renew the focus on student success.

Finally, as a reminder, the statutory mission of the Commission for Independent Education is to serve as a consumer protection agency by: protecting the individual student; promoting accountability at the independent postsecondary level; protecting the integrity of licensed institutions by assuring that certain standards are met; and encouraging independent institutions to offer programs that meet the needs of Florida citizens. These priorities will continue to drive the work of the Commission. I sincerely look forward to working with you to fulfill our mission and maintain our priorities.

MP/rr

cc: Dr. Henry Mack, Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education  
Anastasios Kamoutsas, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Education

Meredith L. Pelton  
Executive Director

Commission for Independent Education