



Vermont Higher Education Council

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September 2, 2011

Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner of Education
Cathy Hilgendorf, Post-secondary Education Consultant
Vermont Department of Education
Vermont State Board of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier VT 05620-2501

Dear Commissioner Vilaseca, Ms. Hilgendorf, and members of the Vermont State Board of Education:

As requested by the Vermont Department of Education and the State Board of Education, the Vermont Higher Education Council has completed a balanced and fair peer review of The Center for Cartoon Studies application to for degree-granting authority in the state of Vermont. VHEC presents this report in accordance with Vermont statute [16 V.S.A. 176 (h) and 176a (e) (1), and using an established process patterned after the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC).

VHEC appreciates the opportunity to present this report, and takes this responsibility very seriously. Our Evaluation Team made up of four professionals in higher education visited the program's campus in White River Junction, VT in May 2011 and produced the attached report of their findings. The Vermont Higher Education Council Committee on Accreditation & Certification met via conference call on September 1st, 2011, with a quorum of five out of our seven members to discuss the application, self-study materials and the Team Report. At this meeting, two of our four Evaluation Team Members were in attendance, as well as one representative from The Center of Cartoon Studies. As a result of this evaluation process along with the meeting on June 1st of all parties, VHEC puts forth the following recommendation:

Based on the information provided by The Center for Cartoon Studies through its self-study, application, and supporting documents; by a site visit of an evaluation team on May 2 and 3, 2011, to their campus in White River Junction VT; and at a meeting on September 1, 2011, before the VHEC Committee on Accreditation and Certification, the Vermont Higher Education Council recommends that:

That the State of Vermont grant The Center for Cartoon Studies authority to confer the academic degree Master of Arts for five years.

Any questions or concerns about our recommendation and the enclosed report may be directed to the VHEC Coordinator. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to work with the Department, and to support this important process for the Department and for the consumers of higher education in the State of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Sue May
VHEC Coordinator

Enclosed: Cover Letter, Team Report (sections 1 and 3), Applicant Response