



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT: III.C.**

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner\*

DATE: January 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Receipt of Review Team Report Concerning the Application for Additional Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by Heartwood College of Art to Award the Master of Fine Arts Degree.

**BACKGROUND:** 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that a fully authorized postsecondary educational institution desiring to confer additional degrees must obtain authorization from the Maine State Board of Education. Heartwood College of Art was initially authorized by an Act of the Maine Legislature to award the degree of Associate of Arts and was subsequently authorized by the Maine State Board of Education to confer the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Officials of Heartwood College of Art, located in Kennebunk, Maine, submitted an application seeking additional authority to confer the degree, Master of Fine Arts with concentrations in: Painting; Drawing; Printmaking; Ceramics; Textiles; Jewelry and Metals. The Board approved Review Team met at the College on June 3, 2008 and conducted a full day's review of the workings of the College and the proposed graduate program of study leading to the award of a Master of Fine Arts. Following the Review Team's initial visit, the Team decided to adjourn further review of the application until the College could provide additional academic details as well as an audited financial report. These materials were received in mid-November and were distributed for review by Team members. With the receipt and analysis of these materials the Team concluded that the College has met all of the Board's degree-granting standards, a set forth in Chapter 170. Attached please find the College's application along with supporting materials concerning this request.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the State Board of Education receive for consideration the Review Team's report of findings concerning the Heartwood College of Art application for additional degree-granting authority to award the Master of Fine Arts degree in Maine.

\*Prepared by Harry Osgood  
Higher Education Specialist