

**Exhibit #V.A.**

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Stephen Bowen, Commissioner\*

DATE: March 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Review Team Report of Findings Concerning the Application for Initial Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by the InterCoast Career Institute to Confer Associate of Applied Science Degrees

**BACKGROUND:** 20-A MRSA, § 10704 provides that any educational institution may confer certain degrees if it has been granted initial authority by an Act of the Legislature. Under Chapter 149 CMR, the Maine State Board of Education is required to make a recommendation for action on any initial degree authorization request to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Officials from the InterCoast Career Institute, located in South Portland, have submitted an application seeking initial degree-granting authority to confer academic degrees at the Associate level in (1) Substance Abuse Counseling; (2) Allied Health; and (3) Accounting.

The InterCoast Career Institute has for several years been licensed as a postsecondary, proprietary school by the Department of Education offering diploma and certificate level programming in a number of technical skill areas. The Institute's request for initial degree-granting authority requires that the application be assessed under provisions contained within Title 20-A, Chapter 409, §§ 10701-10714, *Degree-Granting Institutions*. The Review Team reviewed the application in Augusta with administrators, faculty and staff on October 22, 2012.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the State Board of Education receive the Review Team's Report of Findings concerning the application from InterCoast Career Institute for degree-granting authority to confer the aforementioned degrees at the associate degree level. Action on this request will appear as an agenda item during the Board's April 9, 2013 meeting.

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