

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic Affairs

**NO.:** AAC 18-05

**COMMITTEE DATE:** October 24, 2017

**BOARD DATE:** October 31, 2017

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**REVOCATION OF THE DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY OF LE CORDON BLEU  
COLLEGE OF CULINARY ARTS, INC., A PRIVATE TWO-YEAR COLLEGE**

**MOVED:** The Board hereby revokes the legal authority of **Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Inc.**, a Private Two-Year College to operate and grant degrees in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts retroactive to September 29, 2017.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

**Contact:** Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D.,  
Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

## **Background**

Le Cordon Bleu culinary schools were founded in Paris in 1895 for the study of culinary and hospitality arts. Since that period of time, the institution has grown to include sixteen campuses in the United States, referred to as Le Cordon Bleu North America. Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Inc. (LCB Boston), a private two-year for-profit college located in Cambridge, MA, is a subsidiary of Career Education Corporation (CEC), a publicly-traded company. CEC is the parent company of all LCB North America campuses, including LCB Boston.

CEC had previously been engaged in advanced negotiations with a potential buyer interested in acquiring all of the Company's LCB campuses in North America. However, when these negotiations did not ultimately lead to an agreement the Company felt was suitable to complete a transfer of ownership that would protect student, faculty and stockholder interests, CEC decided to proceed with a teach-out of all LCB campuses in North America. On December 15, 2015, LCB Boston's Board of Trustees voted to close the College as of September 29, 2017. Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (BHE) staff was notified of the planned closure and teach-out on December 18, 2015.

As part of the teach-out, students were given the opportunity to complete their academic programs by September 2017. In addition, LCB Boston arranged transfer and articulation agreements for students with American Intercontinental University, Colorado Technical University, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Johnson & Wales University, and Newbury College.

Throughout the closure process, LCB Boston worked closely with BHE staff to ensure compliance with state requirements related to the closure of the College. The required Notice of Closure documentation was submitted to BHE staff on January 14, 2016, and has been deemed thorough and complete.

In compliance with M.G.L., c. 69, § 30A and 610 CMR 2.10, a public hearing regarding the closure of LCB Boston was held on August 23, 2017 at the Department of Higher Education, Room 1401, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Board revoke the authority of Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts, Inc., a Private Two-Year College to operate and grant degrees in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts retroactive to September 29, 2017.