

March 1, 2021

MiRIS Consortium

100 W. Michigan Ave Ste 650

Lansing, MI 48933

**RE: Program #9023**

JRCERT Board of Directors,

It is with great consideration the MiRIS Governance Council has decided to voluntarily withdraw from JRCERT programmatic accreditation for MRI effectively immediately. After receiving the self-study response on February 3, 2021, "The program does not meet the JRCERT definition of a consortium" citing the JRCERT policy 11.500, the MiRIS Governance Council has voted and determined our mission to provide high quality, high cost, low enrollment programs while meeting the needs of our 28 community colleges in Michigan would be in jeopardy if we continue to change our innovative structure.

The following was sent in a letter to the JRCERT Board in 2019.

*The MiRIS Consortium is the result of a grass-roots effort devised by a group of radiography program faculty who were interested in offering comprehensive advanced imaging programs at their respective community colleges. Because of the highly specialized nature of the advanced imaging modalities, clinical education experiences and subsequent jobs in each college's immediate district would be limited, thus making the programs cost prohibitive for any one college to offer alone.*

*In 2008, a meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico with the JRCERT Board of Directors to discuss the development of the MiRIS Consortium. At that time there was great support, but everyone knew there was going to be work. The consortium model is unique and does not always fit nicely in the standards established by accreditation. At that meeting there was an agreement to work cohesively as a group to ensure this model would be successful, because not only is education changing in this country, but also our student population.*

*The consortium has worked very hard to ensure we meet all standards set by the JRCERT. There have been times we have run into challenges, because we are a consortium of multiple community colleges in a State that does not have a unified system. These challenges require a collaborative spirit and can take additional time.*

*It is the goal of the MiRIS Consortium to meet all of the standards set by the JRCERT, we just ask the board to recognize there are additional challenges at times because of our unique*

***model. The State of Michigan is watching our consortium closely, because they feel this is the way of the future. Colleges need to be collaborative to ensure not only the success of our programs in a challenging economy, but also to support our changing student population. We ask the JRCERT to continue to partner with us as we change the way education is taught in the imaging profession.***

It was believed at the time of the letter and the award of our second accreditation cycle the JRCERT recognized the value of the MiRIS Consortium model. Of course, we are disappointed to hear from JRCERT that our innovative consortium no longer qualifies under the definition of a consortium. We are sure that JRCERT recognizes a recent USDE regulation stating, "Provide more flexibility for innovation for institutions and accrediting organizations by encouraging accreditors to establish different methods of monitoring institutional success and provide opportunities for experimentation." We sincerely hope that JRCERT will take our innovative consortium and the student success offered through the consortium as a basis to re-evaluate the MiRIS consortium's value in the JRCERT accreditation process.

On behalf of the MiRIS Governance Council, we value programmatic accreditation, we understand innovation creates change and those changes do not always align. The Council will be happy to revisit JRCERT accreditation if there is a time when our program meets the JRCERT 11.500 standards of a Consortium.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Lee and MiRIS Governance Council

## Letter of Support from Partner Presidents

### **Grand Rapids Community College:**

Dear Dr. Lee,

As a partner institution in the MiRIS Governance Council, Grand Rapids Community College is committed to the adherence of all JRCERT objectives for continued accreditation. As part of that commitment, we support the hiring of a clinical/education coordinator to comply with Objective 2.2.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bill Pink, Ph.D.

President

Grand Rapids Community College

[143 Bostwick Ave. NE](#)

[Grand Rapids, MI 49503](#)

(O) 616.234.3908

(F) 616.234.2262

### **Kellogg Community College:**

A pdf was provided to Jacqueline Kralik.

### **Lansing Community College:**

Good Morning Dr. Lee,

Lansing Community College supports the hire of a clinical coordinator for the MiRIS Consortium. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Thank you,

Brent Knight  
President  
Lansing Community College  
(517) 483-1851

*Lansing Community College provides high quality education ensuring that all students successfully complete their educational goals while developing life skills necessary for them to enrich and support themselves, their families, and their community as engaged global citizens.*

**Mid Michigan College:**

Hello Amy,

Our dean, Barb Wieszciencinski, discussed the clinical coordinator position with me. I echo President O'Connell's support for taking the action needed to meet JCERT accreditation standards. We want to ensure the quality of this program. I look forward to seeing its growth and the success of its graduates.

Please let me know if you need anything more formal. Thank you for all your good work.

Kind regards,

Chris

Christine M. Hammond, Ph.D.  
President