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August 12, 2014

Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy  
PO Box 3859  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37404-859

Dear Administrator:

Congratulations! Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy has been awarded initial Accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS-CASI). This action was taken at the AdvancED® Accreditation Commission meeting held on June 26, 2014. A certificate that indicates the term of your SACS-CASI accreditation is enclosed. Throughout this term of accreditation, Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy must continue to engage in the tasks required of all institutions to maintain accredited status as outlined in the *AdvancED Accreditation Policies and Procedures* available on our website at [www.advanc-ed.org/services/policies-and-procedures](http://www.advanc-ed.org/services/policies-and-procedures). Your efforts and associated accreditation signify your commitment to educational excellence. You can take pride in your achievement and so can your community.

As part of your External Review report, you received an Index of Education Quality™ (IEQ™) score. The IEQ provides a holistic measure of your institution's overall performance on indicators and evaluative criteria used in the accreditation protocol. As a formative tool for improvement, it pinpoints areas of success as well as areas in need of support and/or focus.

In the past, accreditation reviews resulted in a recommended accreditation status. Labels such as accredited, advised, warned or on probation were used to describe the status of an institution relative to a set of static standards. These labels, with the exception of accredited, were oftentimes perceived as punitive in nature and not as a formative measure by which a school or school system could improve. Given that the most critical aspect of an institution's work is optimizing student learning, the new IEQ framework recognizes and supports the journey of continuous improvement. Your institution's initial IEQ is the starting point for that improvement. Using the IEQ, you have the opportunity to focus your attention, activities and actions resulting in positive impact and measurable improvement designed to optimize learning for every student. As your institution documents these changes and submits them for review, your IEQ scores are updated to reflect this progress and guide the next steps on your improvement journey. To learn more about the IEQ, please visit [www.advanc-ed.org/services/overview-index-education-quality](http://www.advanc-ed.org/services/overview-index-education-quality).

As an accredited institution, you are part of the AdvancED network of over 32,000 schools and systems in more than 70 countries that are committed to continuous quality improvement through accreditation. Through our state, national, and international offices, AdvancED, the parent organization of SACS-CASI, offers a wide range of services including workshops, conferences, web-based resources, publications, surveys and technical assistance. Please check the Improvement Services/ Professional Learning section at [www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org) for upcoming events.



Finally, promoting your accreditation is one of the easiest things that you can do to raise awareness of the importance of continuous improvement of education in your community. To help you celebrate your accreditation, we are providing you with a press release that you may share with your local media. You can access the press release by visiting [www.advanc-ed.org/communicationskit](http://www.advanc-ed.org/communicationskit). In the kit, you will find other press releases, brochures, accreditation seals and promotional items to display your pride in your institution's accreditation.

If you have questions regarding the enclosed certificate, e-mail us at [accreditation-certificates@advanc-ed.org](mailto:accreditation-certificates@advanc-ed.org). Our AdvancED Accreditation Office is available to answer any questions you may have as well and can be reached at 888.41 EDNOW (1.888.413.3669). We look forward to serving you now and in the future.

Sincerely,

*Mark A. Elgart*

Mark A. Elgart, Ed.D.  
President/CEO AdvancED