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7	7			
8	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOR THE BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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11		2246		
12	Against:	·		
13	TEACHERS COLLEGE – GOODYEAR	IM OF ICOLIEC		
	CALIFORNIA	VT OF ISSUES		
14	4   Application for Approval to Operate for an			
15	Institution Non-Accredited			
16.	i rapping right and an area			
17	School Code: Unapproved	,		
18	Respondent.			
19	9   Complainant alleges:			
20	0    .			
21	PARTIES			
22	1. Complainant Leeza Rifredi brings this Statement of	1. Complainant Leeza Rifredi brings this Statement of Issues solely in her official		
i	capacity as the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Bureau for Private 1	capacity as the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau),		
23	Department of Consumer Affairs.			
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STATEMENT OF ISSUES

2. On January 29, 2014, the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education received an Application for Approval to Operate an Institution Non-Accredited from Teachers College – Goodyear AZ DBA Teachers College California (Respondent). The application was assigned application number 27035. The Bureau denied the application on November 8, 2016 and Respondent timely appealed.

#### JURISDICTION

- 3. This Statement of Issues is brought before the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs for the Bureau under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Education Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 94875 authorizes the Bureau to regulate private postsecondary educational institutions under the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009, Education Code sections 94800 through 94950.

### STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

Standards for Evaluating Applications to Operate and Their Renewal

- 5. In pertinent part, section 94885 requires the Bureau to adopt certain minimum operating standards for institutions:
  - (a) The bureau shall adopt by regulation minimum operating standards for an institution that shall reasonably ensure that all of the following occur:
  - (1) The content of each educational program can achieve its stated objective.
  - (2) The institution maintains specific written standards for student admissions for each educational program and those standards are related to the particular educational program.
  - (3) The facilities, instructional equipment, and materials are sufficient to enable students to achieve the educational program's goals.
  - (9) The institution is maintained and operated in compliance with this chapter and all other applicable ordinances and laws.
  - 6. Section 94887 dictates when the Bureau may grant an application to operate:

An approval to operate shall be granted only after an applicant has presented sufficient evidence to the bureau, and the bureau has independently verified the information provided by the applicant through site visits or other methods deemed appropriate by the bureau, that the applicant has the capacity to satisfy the minimum operating standards. The bureau shall deny an application for an approval to operate if

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1	(c) course or module materials that are designed or organized by duly qualified faculty. For each course or module, each student shall be provided with a syllabus or course outline that contains:	
2	(1) a short, descriptive title of the educational program;	
3	(2) a statement of educational objectives;	
. 4	•••	
5	(6) sequential and detailed outline of subject matter to be addressed or a list of skills to be learned and how those skills are to be measured;	
6		
7,	(e) specific learning outcomes tied to the sequence of the presentation of the material to measure the students' learning of the material;	
8	11. CCR section 71715 states in pertinent part:	
9	(b) The institution shall document that the instruction offered leads to the achievement of the learning objectives of each course.	
10		
11	. <u>Statutes and Regulations Governing Institutions' Facilities and Equipment</u>	
12	12. CCR section 71260 states in pertinent part:	
13	(a) For each program offered, the Form Application 94886 shall contain a description of the facilities and the equipment which is available for use by students	
14	at the main, branch, and satellite locations of the institution.	
15	(d) The description shall include specifications of significant equipment	
16 17	that demonstrate that the equipment meets the standards prescribed by the Code and this chapter and is sufficient to enable students to achieve the educational objectives of each education program.	
18	13. CCR section 71735 states in pertinent part:	
19 20	to support the achievement of the educational objectives of all of the courses and	
	educational programs in which students are enrolled. If an institution represents that the educational service will fit or prepare a student for employment in a particular	
21	occupation or as described in particular job titles, either of the following conditions shall be met:	
22		
23	Statutes and Regulations Governing Institutions' School Catalogs	
24	14. Section 94898 states in pertinent part:	
25	(b) After a student has enrolled in an educational program, the institution	
26	shall not do either of the following:	
27	(1) Make any unscheduled suspension of any class unless caused by circumstances beyond the institution's control.	
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1 2 3	(3) Except as provided herein, all amounts that the student has paid shall be subject to refund unless the enrollment agreement and the refund policy outlined in the catalog specify amounts paid for an application fee or deposit not more than \$250.00, books, supplies, or equipment, and specify whether and under what circumstances those amounts are non-refundable. Except when an institution provides a 100% refund pursuant to section 94919(d) or section 94920(b) of the Code, any assessment paid pursuant to section 94923 of the Code is non-refundable.				
5	18. CCR section 71810 sets additional requirements for catalogs:				
6	(a) Each institution shall provide a catalog pursuant to section 94909 of				
7	the Code, which shall be updated annually. Annual updates may be made by the use of supplements or inserts accompanying the catalog. If changes in educational				
8	programs, educational services, procedures, or policies required to be included in the catalog by statute or regulation are implemented before the issuance of the annually updated catalog, those changes shall be reflected at the time they are made in				
9	supplements or inserts accompanying the catalog.				
10	(b) The catalog shall contain the information prescribed by Section 94909 of the Code and all of the following:				
11	(12) A description of all student services;				
12	(12) A description of all student services;				
13	<u>BACKGROUND</u>				
14	19. On January 29, 2014, the Bureau received Respondent's Application for Approval to				
15	Operate an Institution Non-Accredited. The Bureau assigned it Application Number 27035.				
16	20. Following numerous subsequent responsive submittals of documents from				
17	Respondent, the Bureau received Respondent's final draft catalog on September 8, 2016. The				
18					
	final draft catalog included syllabi for all proposed courses. The Bureau denied Respondent's				
19	final draft catalog included syllabi for all proposed courses. The Bureau denied Respondent's application on November 8, 2016.				
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### FIRST CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Offering Unapproved Program)

21. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and section 94899 for planning to offer educational programs without approval from the appropriate state licensing agency and would therefore not lead to required licensure. Specifically, both Respondent's Certificate program and Master's Degree program have their outcomes tied to the institution becoming regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). Respondent's plan indicates that graduates will return to the college to be issued credentials after WASC accreditation is achieved. However, only students enrolling in an already accredited institution are eligible to be credentialed by the CTC.

Causes for Denial Relating to Description of Educational Programs

### SECOND CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Inconsistently Applied Formula for Calculating College Units)

- 22. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and CCR section 71710, subdivisions (c)(3) and (c)(4), for failure to consistently apply a formula for calculating college semester units. Specifically, Respondent's policy and catalog indicate that "15 hours equal one semester unit." However, Respondent's syllabi, embedded in the final draft catalog, do not consistently apply that formula throughout the proposed courses and no explanation of the persistent inconsistencies was provided.
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### THIRD CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Syllabi Material Not Presented in Logically Organized Manner)

- 23. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and CCR sections 71710, subdivision (b), 71710, subdivision (c)(6), and 71715, subdivision (b), for failure to present syllabi material in a logically organized manner. Specifically, the following explanations of the courses and modules contained therein are not easily understood and/or not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence:
- a. Page 115 of Respondent's final catalog states: "Teachers hopefuls will write in an administrative notebooks will be required in each class in students will be asked to select from their Notebooks and from other sources materials that demonstrate and document leadership skills and abilities."
- b. Page 132 of Respondent's final catalog states: "The Teacher Hopeful will learn 'Techniques' for become a better classroom teachers. Wise Wednesday shall guide Teachers Hopefuls to new levels of success as a new or veteran teacher. This course will gives practical advice, useful tools, types of thinking, classroom leadership, emotional intelligence, and cohesive and flexible approach toward teacher education and development. All entities/stakeholders will embrace an academic focused demeanor with the presence of mind that is indigenous too, complements and set's a president for educational profession in the classroom."
- c. The learning outcomes for EDU 503 and EDU 504, on pages 54 and 63 of Respondent's final catalog, respectively, are identical. This duplication of objectives indicates that these courses are not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.
- d. "Understand the changing nature of the Internet and information literacy as applicable in today's scholarly and practice-oriented environments; expand concept of 'mobile learning'" is identified as an objective for three courses: EDU 501: The Learner: A Methods Course; EDU 502: Educational Technology Methods Course; and EDU 505: Design and Improvement of Curriculum and Instruction. This objective appears on pages 25, 41, and 70 of Respondent's final

catalog, respectively. Repetition of specific objectives indicates subject areas are not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.

- e. "Understand the major concepts of educational program development and delivery" is identified as an objective for two courses: EDU 501: The Learner: A Methods Course; and EDU 505: Design and Improvement of Curriculum and Instruction. This objective appears on pages 25 and 70, respectively. Repetition of specific objectives indicates subject areas are not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.
- f. "Define andragogy its use and value as a model of instruction and approach to learning" is identified as an objective for three courses: EDU 501: The Learner: A Methods Course; EDU 502: Educational Technology Methods Course; and EDU 505: Design and Improvement of Curriculum and Instruction. This objective appears on pages 25, 41, and 70 of Respondent's final catalog, respectively. Repetition of specific objectives indicates subject areas are not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.
- g. "Understand the basic principles of curriculum design" is identified as an objective for two courses: EDU 501: The Learner: A Methods Course; and EDU 505: Design and Improvement of Curriculum and Instruction. This objective appears on pages 25 and 70 of Respondent's final draft catalog, respectively. Repetition of specific objectives indicates subject areas are not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.
- h. "Understand the difference between simple presentation and comprehensive learning facilitation as instructional tools" is identified as an objective for two courses: EDU 501: The Learner: A Methods Course; and EDU 505: Design and Improvement of Curriculum and Instruction. This objective appears on pages 25 and 70 of Respondent's final catalog, respectively. Repetition of specific objectives indicates subject areas are not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.
- i. "Apply the concept of 'a learning organization' to your leadership style and organizational career" is identified as an objective for two courses: EDU 501: The Learner: A Methods Course; and EDU 502: Educational Technology Methods Course. This objective appears on pages 25 and 42 of Respondent's final draft catalog, respectively. Repetition of

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specific objectives indicates subject areas are not presented in a logically organized manner or sequence.

j. The syllabus for EDU 530, found on page 148 of Respondent's final catalog, indicates that a central purpose for the course is to "prepare a research based report outline for the Master's thesis" and "prepare students with knowledge on designing a master level academic research study." This course description and corresponding objective do not fit into the Certificate program's purpose and program outline. Only Master's degree candidates need to prepare for a thesis as only this program incorporates a thesis. Thesis-related objectives do not logically apply to the Certificate program.

### FOURTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Inadequate Description in Syllabus of How Skills Will be Measured)

- 24. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and CCR section 71710, subdivision (c)(6), for failure to adequately describe how skills will be measured.
- a. The syllabus for EDU 513, found on page 134 of Respondent's final catalog, has a heading which reads "SCONDARY ASSESSMENTS:"[sic]. These assessments total only 10% (5% + 5%) of the student's grade. The other 90% of the student's grade is not accounted for. Moreover, the explanation of the third of three categories of assessment is not adequately comprehensible. It states: "TCC staff want's their students work they do must matter, not only because it draws on their experience, but also because that work makes it possible for students to better understand, and therefore change, their lives." The primary purpose of assessments is to verify the achievement of learning outcomes, but the vagueness of this description prevents the student from having a solid knowledge of how his or her skills will be measured.
- b. The syllabi for EDU 500 and EDU 503, found on pages 18 and 55 of Respondent's final catalog, respectively, show assessments totaling 115% which is inconsistent with the grading scale provided on the same syllabi which shows a maximum of 100%.

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### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Failure to Include Course Description in Syllabus)

25. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and CCR section 71710, subdivision (c)(1), for failure to provide a course description in the syllabus. Specifically, the syllabus for EDU 505 has no course description. Such a description should have been found on page 69 of Respondent's final catalog.

### SIXTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

# (Unclear and Inconsistent Description of Requirements for Completion of Educational Programs)

26. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and section 94909, subdivision (a)(5), for failing to provide clear and consistent descriptions of the requirements for completion of educational programs in its school catalog. Specifically, in its final deficiency response, Respondent indicated that EDU 508: An Introduction to School Law, was a two (2) unit course. However, the syllabus submitted as part of that same deficiency response indicates it is a three (3) unit course. The final catalog also indicates this course is three (3) units except for when it mistakenly refers to EDU 508 as Methods of Educational Accountability (a course elsewhere identified as EDU 509, a two (2) unit course). Consequently, the requirements for completion of these educational programs are not clear or consistent.

### SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Class Objectives Not Clearly Related to Learning Outcomes)

- 27. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and CCR section 71710, subdivision (e), for failure to clearly relate EDU 504 objectives to learning outcomes, making it impossible to effectively measure the students' learning of the material.
  - 28. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraph 23(c), above, as though set forth fully.

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#### EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

# (Failure to Document that the Instruction Offered Will Lead to Achievement of Learning Objectives)

- 29. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and CCR section 71715, subdivision (b), for failure to document that the instruction offered for various courses will lead to the achievement of the learning objectives of each of those courses.
  - 30. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraph 23(d)-(j), above, as though set forth fully.

### **NINTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

### (Content of Educational Program Can Not Achieve Its Stated Objective)

- 31. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and section 94885, subdivision (a)(1), and CC section 71710, in that the content of EDU 530 in Respondent's syllabus, can not achieve its stated objective.
  - 32. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraph 23(j), above, as though set forth fully.

### TENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Failure to State Educational Objectives)

- 33. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards and CCR section 71710, subdivisions (c)(2) and (e), for failure to include a statement of educational objectives as follows:
- a. The syllabus for EDU 509, found on pages 96-97 of Respondent's final catalog, has a subheading for "Course Objectives," however, no course objectives are identified.
- b. The syllabus for EDU 510, found on page 107 of Respondent's final catalog, does not have true (measurable) objectives. It simply articulates a secondary description of the course.
- c. The syllabus for EDU 513, found on page 132 of Respondent's final catalog, does not have true (measurable) objectives. It simply articulates a secondary description of the course.

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d. The syllabus for EDU 540, found on page 157 of Respondent's final catalog, does not have true (measurable) objectives. It simply lists subjects that will be discussed in the course.

#### **ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

Causes for Denial Related to Facilities and Equipment

### (Insufficient Equipment to Support Achievement of Educational Objectives)

34. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and CCR sections 71260, subdivision (d), 71735, subdivision (a), and 71740, subdivision (b), for failure to provide sufficient equipment to support the achievement of the educational objectives of all of the courses and educational programs in which students are enrolled. Specifically, in the syllabus for EDU 506: Introduction to Special Education Methods, found on page 88 of Respondent's final catalog, one of the course objectives is "Students will go online and learn to access the CSUS library online law-related resources, particularly LexisNexis and practice using them." However, California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) does not grant free public access to their library databases and Respondent has not provided an agreement indicating students will be able to remotely access CSUS's library databases. Additionally, Respondent has not indicated or provided any documentation for a subscription to the Lexis Nexis database. This course objective, therefore, is not achievable.

### TWELFTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Insufficient Equipment to Support Achievement of Educational Objectives)

35. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and CCR section 71735, subdivision (a), for failure to provide sufficient facilities to enable students to achieve the educational program's goals. Specifically, Respondent's final submitted schedule of classes explains that both classroom 1 and 2 may be double booked, as a partition can be used to split the classrooms in two. However, the schedule shows four classes scheduled to run in classroom 1 on Tuesday afternoons: EDU 512; EDU 514; EDU 511; and EDU 550. Even using partitions, only two of these four classes could be accommodated at this time in this location.

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Additionally, the schedule shows three classes scheduled to run in classroom 1 on Thursday afternoons: EDU 500; EDU 505; and EDU 530. Again, even using partitions, only two of these three classes could be accommodated at this time in this location.

Causes for Denial Related to Respondent's Catalog

### THIRTEENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

#### (Excessive Non-Refundable Registration Fee)

36. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and CCR section 71750, subdivision (c)(3), and section 94920, subdivision (b), for including in its syllabus an excessive non-refundable registration fee. Specifically, Respondent's final catalog indicates on page 182 that the registration fee, which is non-refundable, will be \$350. This exceeds the total allowable non-refundable registration fee of \$250.

### FOURTEENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

# (Allowing for Unscheduled Suspension of Class Without Circumstances Beyond Institution's Control)

37. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and section 94898, subdivision (b)(1), for allowing for unscheduled suspension of classes not caused by circumstances beyond the institution's control. Specifically, page 185 of Respondent's final catalog references a class size minimum which implies classes will not be offered as scheduled if the minimum is not achieved. Low enrollment does not qualify as a circumstance beyond the institution's control.

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### FIFTEENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Inconsistent Attendance Policy)

38. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and section 94909, subdivision (a)(8)(D), for failure to include a consistent attendance policy in the institution's catalog. Specifically, Respondent's final catalog states on page 186 that students must attend 10 out of 12 class sessions. However, this is inconsistent with the 16 week semester system the institution purports to employ.

### SIXTEENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Inaccurate Representation of Services Offered to Students)

39. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and CCR section 71810, subdivision (b)(12), for inaccurately representing the services offered to students. Specifically, page 6 of Respondent's final catalog indicates that "on site security during campus hours (armed and un-armed)" will be on hand. Page 193 of the same catalog contradictorily states that there are no contracted security guards on the institution's campus. Likewise, page 6 of the catalog states there are "a well-appointed and staffed college Library and bookstore," but page 193 indicates there is no bookstore on campus.

### SEVENTEENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Inconsistent Representation of Requirements for Completion of Program)

- 40. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and section 94909, subdivision (a)(5), for inconsistently representing the requirements for completion of programs as follows:
- a. The Master's program description on page 7 of Respondent's final catalog begins by stating the program is 47 semester credit hours, but later states it is 42 semester credit hours. The Bureau can not, therefore, identify the requirements for completion of this program as they are inconsistently represented.

b. The Certificate program description on page 9 of Respondent's final draft catalog begins by stating the program is 41 semester credit hours, but later states it is 36 semester credit hours. The Bureau can not, therefore, identify the requirements for completion of this program as they are inconsistently represented.

### EIGHTEENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

### (Failure to List Requirements for Eligibility for Licensure)

- 41. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and sections 94909, subdivision (a)(6), and 94899, for failing to list requirements for eligibility for licensure as follows:
- a. The purpose and associated career outcome of the Master's program is unclear in that on page 7 of Respondent's final catalog, it states: "The program is designed to ensure new teacher and experience in the TCC program design and plan instruction that develop students ability to meet California's academic standards and college's entrance assessment plan." This explanation does not establish the program's definitive relationship to the California requirement of obtaining a teaching credential in order to become a tenured instructor in K-12 public school classrooms.
- b. Page 9 of Respondent's final catalog states: "When approved by CTC course work can apply towards Clear California Teaching Credential." However, were the institution to become approved by the CTC, the approval is not retroactive. Therefore, students enrolled prior to the institution receiving CTC approval would not become credentialed as a result of the program. Therefore, the purpose and associated career outcome of the Certificate program is unachievable.

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### **NINETEENTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

(Failure to Articulate All Requirements for Admissions)

42. Respondent's application for approval to operate is subject to denial pursuant to section 94887 for failure to demonstrate its capacity to meet minimum operating standards, and sections 94909, subdivision (a)(8)(A), and 94885, subdivision (a)(2), for failure to clearly articulate all requirements for admission in the required detailed description of the institution's admissions policies. Specifically, the course description for EDU 502, found on page 11 of Respondent's final catalog, ends with the following disclosure: "Pre-requisite: Any computer classes completed with a C or better." However, the Admission Policies and Procedures on pages 4-5 of the catalog do not indicate that there are any general education or computer class pre-requisites to admission.

### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

- Denying the application of Teachers College Goodyear AZ dba Teachers College
   California for an Approval to Operate an Institution Non-Accredited; and
  - 2. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 9127/2017	Leeza Riffedi
	Deputy Bureau Chief
	Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
	Department of Consumer Affairs
	State of California
	Complainant
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