



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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EXHIBIT: III.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: August 15, 2007

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Review Team Report of Findings Concerning the Application for Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by The Landing School to Award the Associate of Applied Science degree.

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 of The Landing School, located in Kennebunkport, Maine, have submitted an application seeking authority to confer the initial degree of Associate of Applied Science. This degree would be awarded to graduates with a concentration in one of three options: the Design Program; the Boat Building Program; or the Marine Systems Program. Program approval visits were conducted at The Landing School on Thursday, June 8, 2006 and Thursday, May 31, 2007.

The Landing School is incorporated in the State of Maine as a non-profit, postsecondary vocational education institution. To date the School has enrolled certificate, diploma, and continuing education students. In 1987, The Landing School became the first school of its type to become accredited by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. Renamed in 1993, the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT) is recognized by the US Secretary of Education as a nationally approved accrediting agency under the provisions of Chapter 33, Title 38, U.S. Code and subsequent legislation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive the Review Team's Report of Findings concerning the request from The Landing School to confer the degree of Associate of Applied Science. This matter will be an agenda item for consideration during the Board's September 12, 2007 meeting.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
Higher Education Specialist