

## **Institute for the Psychological Sciences**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2005**

Today during its annual meeting, the Commission on Colleges (COC) of the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) granted initial accreditation to the Arlington based Institute for the Psychological Sciences. This decision is retroactive to January 1, 2005.

The Institute for the Psychological Sciences is a graduate institution of higher education located in Arlington, Virginia offering masters and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology. It was founded and chartered by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia in 1998. *The mission of the Institute is dedicated to the renewal of the Christian intellectual tradition and the development of a psychology consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church and in constructive dialogue with the modern world, thereby creating a psychology informed by faith and reason.*

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is one of six regional higher education accrediting organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education and is the recognized regional accrediting body in the eleven U.S. Southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and in Latin America for those institutions of higher education that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. The Commission on Colleges is the representative body of the College Delegate Assembly and is charged with carrying out the accreditation process.

According to the Commission on Colleges, accreditation signifies that an institution has a purpose appropriate to higher education and has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that purpose. Accreditation indicates that an institution maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that it is achieving its stated objectives.

To gain or maintain accreditation with the Commission on Colleges, an institution must comply with the standards contained in the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement and with the policies and procedures of the Commission on Colleges. The Commission on Colleges applies the requirements of its Principles to all applicant, candidate, and member institutions, regardless of type of institution (public, private for-profit, private not-for-profit).

The Institute applied to SACS for membership in August 2002 was granted candidacy status with SACS in December 2003. During candidacy status, the Institute completed a Compliance Certification and received an eight-member Accreditation Committee visit in May 2005 . The Accreditation Committee made six recommendations which the Institute resolved and provided a written response with supporting documentation to the COC of SACS. The Accreditation Report and the Institute's response were reviewed by the COC who granted the Institute accreditation.

**Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS)**

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