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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES
September 18, 2013

Dr. Judy Bonner
President
The University of Alabama
Box 870100
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0100

Dear Dr. Bonner:

Thank you for your letter of May 27, 2013, notifying the Commission on Colleges of the formation of the Aerospace Consortium of Alabama (ACA).

The mission of the ACA is to serve the aerospace industry and the State of Alabama by producing a skilled, professional workforce through graduate level education and collaboration with industrial and government partners in performing cutting-edge research. Such collaboration would not be possible only through individual efforts on the part of the participating institutions.

The University of Alabama has joined with two institutions to facilitate the ACA: Auburn University and the University of Alabama at Huntsville. Students and faculty at all three campuses will share resources and specialized equipment on the campuses of other member institutions. The three institutions will continue to offer separate degrees, but allow students, through appropriate formal means, to access course offerings, seminars, and laboratory facilities at other member institutions. Thus, the ACA can leverage the aerospace assets of the entire state, which will enable it to compete effectively regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Please provide the Commission on Colleges a copy of the signed consortium agreement and the effective implementation date for the agreement. Action on the notification will be deferred pending receipt of the requested information which should reach my office no later than October 11, 2013.

Best regards,

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/LCS:iyw

cc: Dr. Robert "Bob" A. Smallwood, Assistant to the Provost for Assessment
Dr. Robin W. Hoffman

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