

Report from the Accrediting Commission

February 14, 2020

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) met on February 14, 2020. This report summarizes the accreditation actions taken by the Accrediting Commission in accordance with its procedure for Notification and Information Sharing, Section X(F), Policies and Procedures, DEAC *Accreditation Handbook*.

Show Cause Order

The Commission took action to order the following institution to show cause why accreditation should not be withdrawn.

New Learning Resources Online

Dr. Nancy New, President
1417 Lelia Drive
Jackson, MS 39216
<http://www.nlro.org>

Founded 1992

The Commission ordered NLRO to show cause why accreditation should not be withdrawn due to concerns the institution is not in compliance with DEAC accreditation standards that require the owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators to possess sound reputations, a record of integrity, and ethical conduct in their professional activities, business operations, and relations (Standard X.B., DEAC *Accreditation Handbook*). Owners, governing board members, officials, and administrators have records free from any association with any misfeasance (Section I.I., Policies and Procedures, DEAC *Accreditation Handbook*). In order to be eligible for DEAC accreditation, an institution must demonstrate that its name is free from any association with any activity that could damage the standing of DEAC or the accrediting process, such as illegal actions, unethical conduct, or abuse of consumers. (Section I.H., Policies and Procedures, DEAC *Accreditation Handbook*). Accordingly, NLRO is ordered to show cause as to why its accreditation should not be withdrawn.

On Friday, February 7, 2020, DEAC was notified of [reports in the media](#) that Dr. Nancy New, President of NLRO and owner of New Learning, Inc. (the parent organization for New Learning Resources Online); Zach New, Vice President of Operations at NLRO; and Anne McGrew, Business Manager at NLRO, were arrested by special agents from the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor in connection with a multimillion-dollar embezzlement scheme. Information from the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor stated that Dr. New, Mr. New, and Ms. McGrew have been charged with fraud, embezzlement, and deceptive accounting measures. In accordance with its standards, the Commission will review and take appropriate action if a news article or media broadcast carries a negative report on a DEAC-accredited institution (Section XVII.E.4.b., Policies and Procedures, DEAC *Accreditation Handbook*).

NLRO's response to the show cause order and a teach-out agreement for all currently enrolled students with an accredited high school is due February 28, 2020. NLRO's application for renewal of accreditation will remain in a pending status until such time as the Commission reviews and acts upon NLRO's response to the show cause order.