

Department of
Communication/Journalism
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-----Press Release-----

Release Date: Immediately for campus community
Subject: Shippensburg University Communication/Journalism Department recommended for ACEJMC Accreditation

From: Communication/Journalism Department
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The Communication/Journalism Department undergraduate program at Shippensburg University is pleased to announce it was recommended this week for full accreditation by a team from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

The recommended full accreditation certifies that the Communication/Journalism Department is one of the top programs in mass communication and journalism, being placed among just 109 other accredited programs worldwide. A final vote on the accreditation decision will be made by the full accreditation council in May 2013.

The department received provisional accreditation in 2011 after an initial site visit by members of ACEJMC. The department had to address several areas of its program in 18 months after the initial visit in order to be recommended for full accreditation.

During that 18-month period, the department prepared for a revisit by ACEJMC members by completing a full undergraduate program curriculum update, compiling student and program data, and developing a self-assessment report of the department. The department was visited by Dr. Will Norton Jr. and Dr. Judy VanSlyke Turk from Monday, Nov. 12, to Wednesday, Nov. 14. Drs. Norton and Turk reviewed the department, including having multiple meetings with department students and faculty, observing classes, and visiting the many student media offices.

Dr. Norton is the dean of the Meek School of Journalism at the University of Mississippi. Well traveled, Norton was a visiting lecturer at Addis Ababa University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and was a board member of the Kosovo Institute of Journalism and Communication in Pristina, Kosovo. He was the president of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (2000-01) and was president of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communications (1989-90). He is a trustee of the Freedom Forum, the Diversity Institute and the Newseum.

Dr. Turk is currently a professor in the School of Mass Communications at Virginia Commonwealth University. She primarily teaches courses related to public relations to both undergraduate and graduate students. She was the director of the mass communication school from March 2002 through June 2010. Before joining Virginia, Turk was the founder and dean of the College of Communication and Media Sciences at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates. Other leadership position Turk has held include being dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of South Carolina, director of the mass communication and journalism program at Kent State University, and a

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faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, Louisiana State University and Syracuse University. She is a past president of the Association of School of Journalism and Mass Communications and a past president of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

“This recommendation confirms what I have felt for years — that we are the best journalism and mass communication program in the Pennsylvania State System,” Dr. Joe Borrell, department chair said.

“This is a great achievement by faculty and students, but especially by students,” Dr. Michael Drager said. “It is because of their dedication and hard work in the program that the department has received the recommendation for full accreditation. Throughout the process, the support of all the students who met with the visiting accreditors was instrumental in the department achieving this recommendation.”

“We are so thrilled because we all come to work each day and do our best by the students. We know our students work toward a high standard and now we have the good housekeeping seal of approval,” Dr. Kim Garris said.

“It increases the status of the school and for the student it will make them more marketable as it increases the value of this degree,” Dr. Masudul Biswas said. “More prospective students will also be interested in the program.”

“This is the completion of a long journey that was only possible through the hard work of a lot of great people,” Dr. Ted Carlin said. “It validates everything we have been working on since 1999. It shows how great our students are and what they do; we couldn’t be happier for them. It’s a good day.”

The Department of Communication and Journalism at Shippensburg University serves more than 300 students seeking the B.A. in Communication/Journalism with tracks in Print Media, Public Relations, and Electronic Media, or the M.S. in Communication Studies.

Other programs at Shippensburg University are accredited by the AACSB International; the ABET, Inc.; the American Chemical Society; the Council on Social Work Education; the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs; the International Association of Counseling Services; the Council for Exceptional Children; and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teachers.

More information on ACEJMC is available at <http://www2.ku.edu/~acejmc/>

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