

# Edward Waters College



Media Release

---

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Phyllis Bell-Davis, Director  
Communication & Marketing

Phone: 904-470-8251  
[pbelldavis@ewc.edu](mailto:pbelldavis@ewc.edu)

## EWC retains its accreditation

### *EWC reinstated by SACS*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.,** June 23, 2005 – Edward Waters College (EWC) officials received word today from the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that EWC retains its accreditation. The Commission voted today to reinstate the College’s accreditation and work with the institution during the next 12 months towards the mutual goal of delivering quality education to deserving students.

“This is a great day for the students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of EWC. The minds and futures of our students are the reasons that we have been fighting,” stated Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., the college’s president. “We thank God for this victory and we will continue to push towards excellence and ethics, not only at the institution but throughout the college community and the business community.”

Bishop McKinley Young, chairman of the EWC Board of Trustees, stated, “We welcome the partnership with our accreditor over the next several months as we work to perfect, improve and enhance a stronger EWC while providing quality education for our students and our constituents. The ongoing relationship with the Commission will allow us to achieve excellence with our faculty, staff and students.”

In addition, Bishop Young stated that the Board has appointed Dr. Bronson to serve as the College’s 27<sup>th</sup> president effective immediately. “We are pleased that Dr. Bronson has agreed to head the College for the next two years as we continue our search for a president. Dr. Bronson, who served Bethune-Cookman College for 29 years, brings with him integrity coupled with leadership and a wealth of knowledge and experience that can move EWC to the next level. He is known worldwide as a competent leader and a role model for many other presidents to emulate.”

The Search Committee for the President has been formed and is chaired by Dr. James Leander Byrd, member of the Board of Trustees.

In a separate joint press release with the College and SACS, it was announced that the issues that led the Commission to vote to remove the College from membership as an accredited institution, and that led the College to file a lawsuit to preserve its membership, have been resolved. The Commission and the College are jointly petitioning the court to dismiss the lawsuit.

The joint press release further states that the Commission has determined that the College has sufficiently addressed the specific issues in the *Principles of Accreditation* that led the Commission to vote to remove the College from membership; thus, the Commission has reinstated the College's accreditation, subject, of course, to the *Principles of Accreditation* applicable to all accredited institutions.

“We regret the errors that occurred but we move forward with confidence,” said Bishop Young. “During the next two years, EWC is going to work hard to maintain and improve on its history of excellence and ethics, and to attract the best possible faculty and leadership for the school.”

*Edward Waters College was established in 1866 to educate the descendants of African Americans, newly emancipated from slavery. Today, its enrollment continues to be substantially African-American students from the Southeast and Northeast regions of the United States, while also welcoming students from all racial and ethnic groups within the United States and abroad. The College is a private, four-year, liberal arts, coeducational, residential institution, committed to Christian principles which emphasize high moral and spiritual values, as a result of its close affiliation with, and support from, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate degrees. The College offers these degrees in the arts and sciences and other career-based professional fields.*

###