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July 7, 2022

Ms. Susan Jacques
President and Chief Executive Officer
Gemological Institute of America
5345 Armada Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92088

Dear Ms. Jacques:

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (the Commission) met on June 22, 2022, and considered the May 17, 2022, petition for a waiver submitted by Gemological Institute of America (GIA). GIA requested a waiver of the following Obligation of Accreditation.

- **DEAC Accreditation Handbook, Part Four: Appendices VII.**

- J. Renewal of Accreditation**

An accredited institution must take the steps necessary to renew its accreditation at least every five years (three years following initial accreditation). After this time, without affirmative action by the Commission to continue the renewal of an institution's accreditation, the accreditation expires as of the date determined by the Commission. DEAC staff sends the institution a reminder to submit its application for accreditation by the date specified. Once the institution is granted renewal of accreditation, the DEAC staff issues a new accreditation certificate citing the original date of accreditation and the renewal of accreditation date.

GIA requested a one-year extension of its current five-year term of accreditation, which was granted in June 2019 and would expire in June 2023 if not renewed or extended. The reason for the request for a waiver is that GIA is currently undergoing an organizational restructuring to separate its programs and operations into the two different divisions that will more effectively align with the two accreditors that now oversee the institution (The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges [ACCSC] and DEAC). GIA requested this extension to allow the institution adequate time to complete this task. Without this extension, the institution would face a hardship in that the focused work on the renewal self-study might delay the institution's work on creating the separate divisions.

The Commission found that GIA effectively demonstrated that extenuating circumstances are present that indicate that the normal application of the standard or procedure would create an undue hardship on the institution or its students. Therefore, in accordance with the *DEAC Accreditation Handbook Part Two: Processes and Procedures VI.A*, the Commission voted to grant the waiver and allow GIA to extend its current term of

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accreditation by one year until June 2024. The next reaccreditation visit will be scheduled for spring 2024. GIA's application for reaccreditation will be due one year prior to the renewal date.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact DEAC staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leah K. Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Leah K. Matthews
Executive Director

cc: Lucien (Skip) Capone, Chair, Distance Education Accrediting Commission
Ms. Vusala Aranjó, Compliance Officer