



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cynthia A. Davenport
Executive Director
aspa@aspa-usa.org

December 16, 2010

ASPA Releases Video on the Importance of Specialized and Professional Accreditation

Chicago, IL – The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) has developed and released a video entitled *Specialized & Professional Accreditation: What Should I Know?*. The video, targeted primarily to a student audience, is posted at youtu.be/2zBdyBNwwmo and provides easy access to important information on the value of specialized and professional accreditation to students, parents, counselors and others with an interest in education.

The video is presented in a relevant, up-beat format with a college campus as a backdrop. Students and leaders in accreditation highlight the importance of accreditation, the different types of accreditation for college institutions and their programs, questions to ask about program accreditation, and resources for learning more about accreditation.

Accredited programs work to meet standards developed to promote educational quality, and at regular intervals a team of experts in that field reviews and assesses each accredited program to verify that the program continues to meet the standards. This rigorous process of peer evaluation is beneficial to schools, to programs, and especially to students.

According to Cynthia Davenport, MA, MLS, ASPA Executive Director, “Accreditation helps a student know whether a particular college offers a quality education with programs that have been designed to help students work successfully in their chosen fields of study. The specialized and professional accreditor members of ASPA have funded the development of this video to provide a timely and useful resource for students, parents and guidance counselors.”

There are significant benefits to ensuring that specialized or professional education is accredited. Program-level accreditation is used for a variety of reasons, including to:

- Indicate that quality standards developed with broad-based input from those in the discipline have been met
- Increase access to federal student financial aid
- Enable students to sit for licensure or certification examinations

- Support applications to masters or doctorate level programs in selected fields of study
- Ensure that students are offered the opportunity to develop the skills and earn the credentials that are required in the marketplace after graduation

Students will find specialized accreditors in about 70 fields of study in a wide range of health-related fields and other disciplines. Examples of programs that routinely participate in the specialized accreditation process include medicine, architecture, business, dance, and teacher education. Accreditation standards for specific fields of interest can be researched through links to ASPA-member organizations at www.aspa-usa.org. The link to the video (<http://youtu.be/2zBdyBNwwmo>) can also be found on the ASPA website.

About The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

ASPA, a 501(c)(3) association, represents U.S. agencies that assess the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools. ASPA focuses on issues of educational quality facing institutions of higher education, governments, students, and the public. ASPA-member accreditors set national educational standards for entry into 61 specialized disciplines or defined professions to ensure that students in educational programs receive an education consistent with standards for entry into practice or advanced practice in each of their respective fields or disciplines.

***Enhancing quality in higher education through
specialized and professional accreditation***

###