

**From:** Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors <jvibert@aspa-usa.org>  
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**NEWSLETTER December 2017**

**News from the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors**

**Association Updates**

**New Members**

The Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council and the National Nurse Practitioner Residency Fellowship and Training Consortium joined ASPA as full members this fall. Welcome!

**ASPA Conference Format**

The spring and fall conferences going forward will have a slight schedule change - member meetings will take place on Monday mornings and topical sessions on Monday afternoons. Professional development programming will be held all day on Tuesdays.

**Strategic Planning**

Over this past summer, ASPA engaged in several activities in preparation for a facilitated planning session for the Board of Directors in the fall:

- ASPA members were surveyed,
- several association stakeholders were interviewed,
- SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats) analyses were done, and
- a summary of the findings was presented to ASPA members at the 2017 fall conference for additional input.

The Board then met in October and identified three priority areas for activities in 2018 - 2021:

- External Relations,
- Member Services, and
- Association Capacity.

Work will continue to identify specific activities and members will be updated with further details in the new year.

**Upcoming Events**



**Spring Conference**

April 9-10, 2018  
Chicago IL

**Developing a Successful Accreditation Decision Making Body**

Creating a successful volunteer accreditation commission or board requires effective strategies to identify, select, engage and develop individual members. This program will address the elements and considerations for building a successful team:

- **Composition:** strategies and practices to achieve representation across a broad spectrum of qualified and diverse nominees;
- **Onboarding:** orientation approaches to communicate expectations and account abilities to new board members;
- **Engagement:** methods to ensure commissioners act in the best interest of the agency and make responsible decisions; and

## Employer Engagement

A survey to ASPA members was distributed in November/December to identify practices related to employer involvement in the accreditation process. The report is expected to be completed in January - stay tuned.

- Leadership Development: identifying and grooming potential leaders on the board for succession in the decision making body.

[Program and Registration](#)

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## Save the Date - Fall Conference 2018 September 9-11 in Arlington VA

### ASPA's 25th Anniversary

The association will be 25 years old! We'll celebrate with a reception and dinner on Sunday evening at the Capital View Ballroom in the Key Bridge Marriott. Regular conference programming will take place at the Westin Arlington Gateway.

### Tentative professional development programming:

Continuous quality improvement: *identifying opportunities for collaboration between accreditors and programs, and*

*Managing site visitors from A to Z: strategies for accreditors to guarantee consistency with policy and values.*

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## About ASPA



The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors provides a collaborative forum and a collective voice for the community of 62 member accreditors that assess the quality of programmatic higher education programs and schools in the United States. We are the only organization that promotes the importance of specialized and professional accreditation.

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Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors | 3304 North Broadway Street, #214,  
Chicago, IL 60657

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