



Message from the Chair

Neil Harvison, Chief Academic and Scientific Affairs Officer, ACOTE (Occupational Therapy)

It is hard to believe that we are already booking flights and accommodations for our fall meeting in Baltimore in September. We will spend considerable time in the meeting getting up to date on regulatory issues. The administration, USDE and Congress have started hearings and requests for comment in preparation for establishing their positions on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). If the press and pundits are correct, we can look forward to proposals for dramatic changes to accreditation, with a focus on increased accountability and cost containment.

It is timely that the members of the Fall Professional Development Committee have prepared a program that will focus on the challenges faced by accreditors in the assessment of quality of various forms of education delivery, including distance education, practical experiences, simulation, and education provided across multiple locations. Some of accreditation's biggest critics argue that the current accreditation system is not equipped to ensure quality education in the rapidly changing delivery models.

It is not surprising that our executive director, members of the board and members of the External Recognition and Issues Committee (ERIC) have been spending much of their time in advocacy related activities. Since we last met in the spring we have held face-to-face meetings with key USDE staff, CHEA leadership, Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC) and conducted visits to key congressional offices on Capitol Hill. In addition the executive director continues to maintain ongoing

communication with the associations of colleges and schools. It is essential that we maintain our advocacy and education strategies throughout this time. While the focus of Congress and the Administration has been on institutional accreditation, we need to ensure that the key policy and decision makers understand the success the specialized and professional accreditors have had in ensuring the quality of our accredited educational programs. The unique role that ASPA plays as the only voice dedicated to specialized and professional accreditation has never been more evident.

However, we are a small organization with limited resources. It is essential that our members expand the efforts beyond our overworked executive director and committee members. ASPA has developed a number of resources to assist you in this effort. We have created brief talking points and handouts that you can use to spread the word with your stakeholders so they can advocate to their own representatives. We will have more to share at the fall meeting.

On a different note, it is time to take a break and party in Baltimore as we celebrate 20 years since our association was formed. This will also give us the opportunity to thank our many members who have served on the board and on various committees and task groups. It is the countless hours of volunteer service that has ensured the current and future success of ASPA. Thank You! ▲

Fall 2013 Professional Development Program

Education Delivery Models – Encouraging Innovation; Assuring Quality

Technology, innovation and creativity abound in the delivery of education. As “guarantors” of educational quality, accreditors are challenged to keep abreast of new developments and identify strategies and processes that allow for assessment of the various forms of education delivery, including massive open online courses (MOOCs), clinical/practical placements and externships, simulation, and education provided across multiple locations. In addition, several institutions are assessing and giving credit for prior learning and focusing on student competency attainment as opposed to completion of credit hours. Attendees will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the various perspectives on the issues and to take away ideas to enhance the effectiveness of their accreditation operations.

Plan to attend this session on **Monday, September 9th (1:00 - 5:00 pm)** and **Tuesday, September 10th (8:30 am - 12:00 pm)** at the Hyatt Regency, Baltimore MD. Click [upcoming-meetings](#) for the registration form and agenda.

ASPA Spring Meeting 2013

Pauletta Brown Bracy, Director Office of University Accreditation, North Carolina Central University, ASPA Vice Chair

The Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago welcomed ASPA members and attendees to another opportunity to learn and network at the Spring 2013 meeting. The robust agenda included a pre-meeting on shared practices in international accreditation and a state of affairs forum on current issues affecting accreditation offered by Paul E. Lingenfelter, President of the State Higher Education Executive Officers. Both programs were well received and yielded a beneficial exchange of ideas and opinions.

This year's professional development program, "The Well Accreditor" featured Elissa Myers, CEO of Advice and Consensus, who led attendees in interactive activities addressing important functions of accrediting agencies: good governance, strategic planning, succession planning and volunteer relations.

Myers established a context by discussing the evolution of organizations and how they attract members because people believe in "what the organization stands for". Joining is not

about what the organization is doing, but rather, belief in "why the organization is doing what it does." Myers stated, "Members join each other – not the organization – in a common quest to achieve something". A survey conducted prior to the meeting collected members' attitudes about the four functions, as they exist in their organizations. Selected quotes were shared throughout the presentation to affirm her premises and members' perceptions.

For boards and governance, she described four legally binding roles for members: duty of care, loyalty, disclosure, and obligation. Myers concluded this section with discussion about the responsibilities of the governing bodies in protecting the organizational vision, mission, and values, developing policy, and



monitoring progress. She contended that the most important role of the board is strategic planning.

Part 2 opened with reasons organizations should engage in strategic planning, a subject familiar to most of the ASPA membership who have participated in the development of ASPA's plan as well as those of their organizations. Representatives of three agencies participated in a fireside chat, sharing their approaches to planning.

With a focus on volunteer leaders, Part 3 on succession planning gave members the opportunity to ponder scenarios and offer possible solutions to dilemmas confronting organizations in this area. Myers concluded the session with advice on ensuring successful leadership planning for board members.

The last session on volunteerism emphasized strategies on recruiting volunteers who are actively committed to their roles. Reiterating the importance of a vision, Myers summed up the essence of maintaining a pool of outstanding volunteers, "If you have an organization with a compelling vision, you are likely to have volunteers who love what they are doing so much that they don't want to leave!"

Comments on the entire meeting were generally favorable and several cited the valuable tips and ideas gained during the professional development program. As always, networking was a highlight for several members. We look forward to another season of new knowledge and networking at our fall meeting in Baltimore. ▲

Message from the Executive Director

Joseph Vibert

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed Laura Rasar King as the newest board member representing Chief Staff Officers (see the next page for Laura's biography). We are also extending our sincere thanks to Kathy Megivern who has completed six years of service on the board, three of which were as Vice Chair.

We have made significant progress on our communication and advocacy strategies, including developing principles for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and briefing papers for educational visits with lawmakers. At the American School

Counselor Association's national conference, we also provided information to school counselors to guide students to ask about accreditation when choosing education programs.

As we mark our 20th anniversary, we are keeping ASPA current by completing the update to our Code of Good Practice and trying a new meeting format by issuing a call for presentations for ASPA's 2014 spring conference. As ever, I look forward to working with you to enhance the voice of programmatic accreditation and to improve services. ▲

Welcome new Board Member

Laura Rasar King has served as Executive Director of the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 2004. Her career spans nearly 20 years in public health, most of which has focused on quality



assurance in higher education in public health and related professional fields. Currently, she is responsible for managing the work of CEPH and supporting its Board of Directors. She assists universities interested in establishing a public health degree program and pursuing accreditation both nationally and internationally,

and maintains relationships with governmental and private sector organizations that share common interests in higher education, accreditation, academic public health and public health workforce issues. Her other professional positions have included: Outreach and Education Director in the Environment and Health Program at Physicians for Social Responsibility, as well as positions focusing on clinician education at The George Washington University's Medical Faculty Associates and the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation. Early in her career, she worked at HealthReach Network, a consortium of 11 federally funded health centers in rural Maine, as a VISTA Volunteer.

Her professional activities have included a variety of appointed and elected positions in the American Public Health Association (APHA), and in APHA's Public Health Education and Health Promotion (PHEHP) section. She was the 2002 Judith R. Miller Award recipient for service to the PHEHP section and APHA in support of the practice and profession of health education. She has served on the Division Board for Professional Development of the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC), on the Board of Trustees of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and as a member of the Assessment Process Workgroup of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). She has also held a variety of elected and appointed positions in ASPA.

Although her primary interest lies in higher education quality, she is also interested in quality education throughout the lifespan. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, on the Elementary Curriculum Advisory Committee for Howard County, Maryland and on the School Improvement Team for Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School. She received an MPH in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention from George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services and BA in Psychology from American University, both in Washington, DC. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies in Organizational Leadership at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. She is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES). ▲

ASPA News July 2013

ASPA Fall Meeting 2013

September 8 - 10, 2013

Hyatt Regency Baltimore

Preliminary Program

Pre-meeting

Sunday, September 8th

8:30 am – 10:30 am

ASAHP/ NN2/ CAAHEP breakfast meeting (by invitation)

Business Meetings

Sunday, September 8th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Member session (closed)

Members are invited to send requests for discussion topics to the ASPA office or to any of the members of the board by August 1, 2013.

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm - Reception (open)

Monday, September 9th

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Presentation: Reauthorization of the HEA (open)

10:15 am – 11:00 am

Presentation: Liability Issues in Accreditation (open)

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Board Meeting (open)

Professional Development Program

Education Delivery Models –

Encouraging Innovation; Assuring

Quality (See page 1 for program description.)

Monday, September 9th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm (open)

5:15 pm – 6:45 pm - Reception (open)

Celebrate ASPA's 20th Anniversary!

Tuesday, September 10th

8:30 am – 12:00 pm (open)

Go to www.aspa-usa.org/upcoming-meetings for registration forms and schedules.

Become a Member

...the authoritative voice of specialized and professional accreditation...

The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors provides a collaborative forum and a collective voice for the community of approximately 60 member agencies that assess the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools in the United States. We are the only organization that promotes the importance of specialized and professional accreditation.

Some of the many benefits of membership in ASPA include:

- **A unified and common voice** for issues of importance to programmatic accreditation and higher education nationally.
- **Networking and peer interaction** in conference settings; participating in a community of programmatic accreditors; sharing best practices in carrying out accreditation work; benchmarking to improve performance.
- **Professional development** for volunteers, staff and educators and opportunities to learn from other accreditors.
- **Current information** on pertinent issues and important developments.
- **Advocacy** to broader communities including higher education, government, institutional accreditors, and recognition bodies.



- **Enhancement of the credibility and image of accreditation** through endorsement of the ASPA-Member Code of Good Practice that embraces a high standard of professionalism and integrity in the conduct of accreditation operations and promotes quality in education and respect for institutional autonomy.
- **Member services** include regular newsletters to the broad community and e-letters within the membership; development of position papers on issues and good practices; in person and written representation on specialized accreditation on legislation and recognition issues to stakeholders; a proprietary database of member profiles and organization structure; a periodic compensation survey; and access to a private listserv to gather information within the membership.

Some of the many activities on ASPA's agenda for this year:

- preparing communication materials to promote the value of programmatic accreditation to a variety of stakeholders.
- developing principles for reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in preparation for meetings with stakeholders and lawmakers.
- webinars on the higher-education environment and orienting accreditation staff and boards.
- hosting a wiki of accreditation and higher-education terminology.

Visit www.aspa-usa.org for more information and to apply for membership. ▲

Save the Date – ASPA Spring Conference 2014

March 30 - April 1, 2014 – Chicago, IL

In addition to topical presentations and discussions on current issues in accreditation and higher education, we're trying something new for the educational component of our program by issuing a **Call for Presentations**. We will accept a broad range of topics of interest to our members. Proposals are due August 15, 2013. Click [here for full details](#).

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us in the Windy City!

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