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To: Joseph Vibert
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NEWSLETTER June 2017

News from the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

Association Updates

ASPA Award

At the association's 2017 Spring Conference, Dr. Neil Harvison (former ASPA Chair) was presented with the Cynthia A. Davenport Award in recognition of his extensive volunteer service to ASPA and his ongoing promotion of the importance of specialized and professional accreditation.



Above: Neil Harvison (right) receives ASPA Award.

Strategic Activities

ASPA's strategic plan focuses on advocacy, member services/education and relationship building. Some recent activities include: participation in SHEEO-led meetings aimed at strengthening the Triad; ongoing development of site visitor resources to be available to Members in the fall; and development of an association position document in anticipation of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

The ASPA Board has recently begun the process to develop a new strategic plan for the upcoming years, that will be completed in October.

Higher Education News

Upcoming Events



Fall Conference

September 10-12, 2017
Arlington, VA

Sessions will include:

- Orientation to ASPA
- Regional Accreditation 101
- Closed Member Session
- Higher Education and Accreditation Update
- Cultural Competence and Accreditation Reviews
- Diversity Requirements in Accreditation and Risk Management Considerations
- Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative
- Professional Development

Leading the Standards Revision Process

- Demonstrating validity and reliability in standards;
- Ensuring evidence-based approaches to data

In May the Administration formally withdrew the **teacher-preparation regulations** that both the House and the Senate had voted to eliminate. It also backed the former Administration's Secretary of Education's **termination of recognition** of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools.

In June the Education Department announced that it will delay implementation of the **borrower-defense regulations** and appoint separate rule-making committees to renegotiate that rule as well as the **gainful-employment** regulations.

collection in the standards revision process;

- Effectively planning, managing resources, and leveraging technology for standards revision;
- Communicating goals and employing effective communication strategies before, during, and after the standards revision process; and
- Implementing new standards—from coaching programs to enforcing compliance.

Early registration discounts are available until July 20.

[Full Program and Registration](#)

Save the Date

Spring Conference 2018 - April 8-10 in Chicago

Developing a Successful Decision Making Body

Assembling a cohesive volunteer accreditation commission or board requires concrete strategies to identify, select and develop individual members. The professional development program will address the elements and considerations for building a successful team:

- Nominations/ elections/ recruitment: strategies to leverage bylaws, policies and practices to achieve representation across a broad spectrum of qualified and diverse nominees;
- Onboarding: effective orientation and mentoring to communicate expectations and accountabilities to new members of an accreditation board;
- Engagement: approaches to ensure commissioners act in the best interest of the agency and make effective decisions; and
- Succession: recognizing volunteer talent and planning for leadership succession in the decision making body.

Make sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about the spring conference in subsequent issues of the ASPA newsletter.

About ASPA



The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors provides a collaborative forum and a collective voice for the community of 60 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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