

## CHEA Federal Relations Update

■ At the June 22, 2000 CHEA Enhancing Usefulness IV Conference, Senator Robert Kerrey (D-NE) summarized Congressional attitudes toward accreditation when he said that the value of voluntary accreditation for higher education is far more accepted now than it was in 1992. Kerrey's remarks highlighted the progress that voluntary accreditation has made since that date, when there was great deal of concern about accreditation.

Kerrey, who chairs the Congressional Web-based Education Commission (<http://www.webcommission.org>) spoke about the far-reaching change technology is bringing to higher education. The mission of the Commission "...is to recommend actions to help ensure that all learners have full and equal access to the capabilities of the World Wide Web, and to ensure that online content and learning strategies are affordable and meet the highest standards of educational quality."

CHEA President Judith Eaton testified before the Commission in February and CHEA continues to be involved as well as the Education Department's Distance Education Demonstration Project.

■ While accreditation has not been the subject of legislative action since the improvements made in the 1998 Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, there have been a number of recent issues and activities involving the Department of Education. These include:

- An exchange of letters between CHEA and Assistant Secretary for



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*Senator Robert Kerrey, chair of the Congressional Web-based Education Commission and Judith S. Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.*

Postsecondary Education, A. Lee Fritschler, clarifying and reconfirming that "Distance learning is being incorporated into the regular recognition process for accreditors and not being managed as a separate component." The exchange took place following a CHEA-arranged meeting between accreditors and the Assistant Secretary in April, 2000.

- A CHEA update by Judith Eaton to the National Commission on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) at its May 25, 2000 meeting. Particular emphasis was placed on the capacity of national, regional and specialized accreditation to effectively address assuring quality in distance learning.
- CHEA participation in a panel discussion held by NACIQI regarding transfer of credit. The panel was organized in response to questions raised during the 1998 reauthorization about the use of "source of accreditation" as a sole basis for denying

credit by institutions and the changes technology is bringing to higher education. CHEA's primary message was that federal management of transfer was undesirable and in conflict with longstanding principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy and independence. CHEA's Committee on Transfer and the Public Interest (a group of chancellors and presidents, accreditors, association executives and higher education researchers that has been meeting since late 1998) will be presenting its recommendations on transfer to the CHEA Board of Directors in September, 2000.

- CHEA monitoring of emerging concerns of USDE about distance learning that could result in additional (and unwanted) regulation for site-based as well as distance learning providers. An issue raised in the past several months is the "12-hour Rule" that sets expectations of the amount of time students will be engaged in instruction to earn credit hours. ■

# CHEA 2000 Enhancing Usefulness Conference IV

June 22-23, 2000  
Washington, DC

CHEA's 4th Enhancing Usefulness Conference, *Sharing Responsibility for Quality: Institutions, Programs and Accreditors*, brought together more than 120 college and university presidents, senior administrators and representatives of accrediting organizations to examine the accreditation process and quality assurance issues.

The two-day meeting opened with **Senator Robert Kerrey** addressing quality assurance expectations of public officials and opinion leaders (see story, page 1). Additional sessions included "Distance Learning and Specialized Accreditation: What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You," and "What Do Presidents, Chief Academic Officers and Accreditors Really Want from Quality Review?"

*Left to right:*

**Charles Cook**, Director, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges of Higher Education.

**Malvin A. Williams**, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Alcorn State University.

**Marianne Phelps**, Special Assistant, United States Department of Education.

**Carl Monk**, Executive Director, Association of American Law Schools.

**Judith Watkins**, CHEA Vice President for Accreditation Services and conference attendees **Mamoru Tashiro** (left) and **Sanae Maeda** from Japan.

**Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr.**, Research Professor, Arizona State University.

**Anne McGrath**, Managing Editor, *America's Best Colleges*, U.S. News & World Report and **CHEA President Judith Eaton**.

## The CHEA Chronicle

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES VOTAW

# Recognition Update

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation's Committee on Recognition has, since its first meeting in June 1999, initiated review of 32 accrediting organizations that have applied for CHEA recognition based on the *CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures* (September, 1998). The recognition review has two stages: a determination of whether the accrediting organization is eligible for CHEA recognition based on the CHEA eligibility standards in the policy (paragraph 10) and review of the organizations for recognition based on the CHEA recognition standards in the policy (paragraph 11).

The committee's recommendations of eligibility and recognition are acted upon by the CHEA Board of Directors. To date, the board has declared 31 organizations eligible for CHEA recognition review.

The review schedule established by the Committee on Recognition for accrediting organizations declared eligible and pursuing CHEA recognition is available below. Please also note that these reviews provide for third party comment.

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## Schedule for Recognition Reviews of Accrediting Organizations

### Organizations Scheduled for Committee on Recognition Review • Nov. 6-7, 2000

- Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, Commission on Accreditation
- Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council
- American Association of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
- American Council for Construction Education Board of Trustees
- Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools Accreditation Commission
- Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs
- Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, Commission on Accreditation
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- Council on Rehabilitation Education, Council on Standards and Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Music, Commissions on Accreditation, Non-Degree Granting, and Community/Junior College Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation
- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions

### Organizations Scheduled for Committee on Recognition Review • March 19-20, 2001

- American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Council on Accreditation
- American Board of Funeral Service Education, Committee on Accreditation
- American Library Association
- Committee on Accreditation, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools
- American Institute of Certified Planners/Association of Collegiate Schools Planning, Planning Accreditation Board
- American Dietetic Association, Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education
- American Occupational Therapy Association, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
- American Optometric Association, Council on Optometric Education
- American Veterinary Medical Association, Council on Accreditation
- Council on Aviation Accreditation
- National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
- Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Colleges
- Society of American Foresters, Committee on Accreditation
- Teacher Education Accreditation Council
- Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools

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## Third Party Comment

The CHEA recognition process provides for third party comment during the review period. As indicated in the *CHEA Recognition Policy* (paragraph 28):

"All third parties who intend to comment at an accrediting organization's recognition review must submit in writing to CHEA a description of the organization(s) they represent and an outline of the proposed comments. All comments must address the accrediting organization's efforts to meet the CHEA recognition standards.

CHEA staff will review third-party submissions for completeness and applicability to recognition standards. Outlines of oral and written comments will be included in materials provided to accrediting organizations, the committee, and readers. The accrediting organization shall have the opportunity to review third-party comments and attach its response. Third-party comments, with the accrediting organization's response, will be distributed to the committee for consideration. Individuals and organizations that request the opportunity to comment will be notified of the scheduled appearance of the accrediting organization and, where in the judgment of the committee doing so may be useful, assigned a time at which to appear. CHEA staff will notify all concerned parties of the location, date, and time of the public presentation."

**Third party comment for organizations being reviewed November 6-7, 2000 should be received in the CHEA office no later than September 30, 2000. Third party comment for organizations being reviewed March 19-20, 2001 should be received no later than February 1, 2001. ■**

# CHEANEWS

## Calendar

### CHEA Board of Directors Meetings

Sept. 25-26, 2000 • Washington, DC  
Jan. 22, 2001 • New Orleans, LA  
April 30-May 1, 2001 • Washington, DC  
Sept. 24-25, 2001 (TBA)

### CHEA Conferences

- **CHEA 2001 Annual Conference**  
Jan. 22-24, 2001 • New Orleans, LA
- **CHEA Enhancing Usefulness Conference V**  
June 28-29, 2001 • Chicago, IL

### CHEA Committee on Recognition

November 6-7, 2000 • Washington, DC  
March 19-20, 2001 • Washington, DC

## Publications

**The Common Data Project.** *Just published!* A CHEA Occasional Paper prepared by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and the CHEA Task Force on Common Data. (\$24.95)

**The Competency Standards Project.** *New!* A CHEA Occasional Paper prepared by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. (\$24.95)

## 2000-2001 Board of Directors

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**Core Academic Values, Quality and Regional Accreditation: The Challenge of Distance Learning.** A CHEA Monograph by Judith S. Eaton. (\$19.95)

**Internationalizing Quality Assurance in Higher Education.** A CHEA Occasional Paper by John Petersen. (\$19.95)

**The 1999 CHEA Almanac.** The first CHEA compendium of providers of external quality review and commentary on current quality review issues and challenges (\$55).

To order CHEA publications or for additional information, call (202) 955-6126 or visit our website at [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org).

## Welcome to CHEA

Please welcome **Candy Rogers**, CHEA's new Director of Print and Web Services. Candy joins us from the American Council on Education.

# CHEA

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