

The Council for Higher Education, Accreditation or CHEA was established in 1996 by a referendum of college and university presidents. These institutional leaders wanted an independent non-governmental body to oversee accreditation in the United States.

And through their membership these college and university presidents have supported CHEA's mission to preserve the autonomy of institutions. CHEA was created to enhance the ability of colleges and universities to tell their story about quality assurance and accountability.

CHEA's focus is assuring student success through the academic quality of institutions and programs. CHEA's main areas of focus include: Recognition, Education and Advocacy, Professional Development, and International Collaboration.

The CHEA recognition process, which employs rigorous standards in reviewing accrediting organizations for quality, means CHEA "accredits the accreditors."

On Capitol Hill and at the Department of Education, CHEA specifically advocates for: Institutional Autonomy, Academic Freedom, Protection of Institutional Mission, and Peer Review and Accreditation.

CHEA helps members grow as professionals through its meetings, publications, and resources.

CHEA has become the authoritative source to students, families, and the public for information on accreditation, such as the CHEA database of institutions and programs and the CHEA Almanac.

CHEA also works collaboratively with quality assurance agencies around the world through the CHEA International Quality Group. Looking forward, CHEA will continue to be vitally important in creating spaces for higher education to innovate and demonstrate, through evidence of quality, the promise that students will be better prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of a global society.