

Message from the Chair

Laura Rasar King, Executive Director, Council on Education for Public Health



ASPA has been busy since the January 2015 edition of the newsletter: responding to calls for commentary relating to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), holding our largest ever Spring Conference and beginning implementation of the new strategic plan that was

drafted following the member discussion at the 2014 Fall Conference. I am so proud to share ASPA's accomplishments on behalf of its Members!

We provided input on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act through several venues: written commentary on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) recommendations to inform accreditation and recognition policy and practice, meetings with the staff of the House Committee on Education, Senator Mike Lee and Senator Lamar Alexander, and written commentary on Senator Alexander's white paper on accreditation.

We have and will continue to meet with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and institutional accreditors to discuss common issues and concerns regarding the reauthorization. Most importantly, we will continue to visit with congressional staff to deliver our message regarding legislation and the important role of specialized and professional accreditation in ensuring well-trained practitioners in a wide variety of professional fields to serve the public good.

At the Spring Conference and Annual Meeting in Chicago (more information follows in this newsletter) the Members elected Claire Dixon-Lee, Katie Lukovich and Barry Eckert to the Board. I'd like to welcome them, and thank outgoing Directors Ed Napieralski, Jack Culbreth, and Neil Harvison for their service. Neil completed 6 years on the Board, serving as both Chair and Vice-Chair – his dedication (and good humor) will be missed.

Also at the Spring Conference, as part of the strategic plan, the Board formed the Good Practice Task Force and appointed members to this work group. A Member needs assessment has already been completed and work has begun on the

development of resources for ASPA Members. The Task Force will provide a progress update at the Fall Conference.

Other business at the Annual Meeting included Member approval of amendments to the bylaws and articles of incorporation. The amendments were proposed as a result of a legal review to ensure alignment with current District of Columbia corporation law.

The Board met in May to review strategic initiatives and plan the 2015 Fall Conference, in addition to other items. Some highlights include the engagement of a consultant to assist with professional development and educational programming, refinements of future conference structure to improve the Member experience, and confirmation of the planning strategy to develop Member resources.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all the individuals who contribute time, energy and expertise to ASPA committees and task forces. The association's success is in large part dependent on our volunteers. Have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you at the Fall Conference in Washington, DC. ▲

ASPA Fall Conference 2015

It's all About Good Practice

We'll discuss good practices in: stakeholder engagement and gaining input for the accreditation process, from development of standards and practices through identification of outcome measures; how accreditors deal with an increasing volume of complaints; how accreditors can be better prepared with processes to address the changing landscape of higher education mergers, acquisitions and closures; and dealing with the "unexpected" during site visits, decision making meetings, etc.

Plan to attend this session **September 14th and 15th** at the Washington Marriott. Go to www.aspa-usa.org for registration and the agenda.

ASPAs Spring Conference 2015

The Spring Conference and Annual Meeting in Chicago in March was well attended and very positively reviewed. Some highlights:

Pre-conference and Member Sessions

For the past several years we have held sessions prior to the actual conference on various topics. This time we discussed Competency-Based Education, we learned about International Organization for Standardization certification of an accreditor, and our sister organization, the European Alliance for Subject Specific and Professional Accreditation (EASPA) informed us about its activities. During the Members' session, current issues in accreditation and higher education were discussed.

Conference

The conference opened with the Sunday evening reception and presentation of the Cynthia A. Davenport Award to Carol L. Bobby. The award is presented for exceptional effort on behalf of specialized and professional accreditors. The intent is to honor an individual whose contributions have promoted the importance of accreditation to the quality of higher education in the United States, and the importance of specialized and professional accreditation to a variety of disciplines and professions. Carol was instrumental in the formation of ASPA more than 20 years ago – working with others to draft the bylaws, code of good practice and other seminal documents. She is one of the signatories on the 1993 articles of incorporation and served as an initial director of the association. She chaired ASPA and the Center for Quality Assurance in International Education, and was the first American to be elected president of the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). We thank Carol for her contributions.



Carol L. Bobby

Monday opened with a presentation by Libby Nelson (Vox) - **The Final Two Years of Obama Administration Policy**. Business meetings of the Members and Board followed, with elections and committee appointments. As well, the following individuals were presented with certificates in appreciation of their service to ASPA:

- Tess Kirsch - member of the Spring Professional Development Committee, May 2010 - April 2014,
- Claire Dixon-Lee - member and Chair of the Membership Committee, May 2009 - April 2015,
- Edmund Napieralski - Board of Directors, May 2012 - April 2015,
- John Culbreth - Board of Directors, May 2012 - April 2015,
- Leslie Higham - member and Chair of the Spring Professional Development Committee, May 2009 - April 2015, and
- Neil Harvison - member, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, May 2009 - April 2015.

Elections

- Claire Dixon-Lee was elected to the Board in the category of ASPA Member Agency Chief Staff Officer.
- Katie Lukovich was elected to the Board in the category of Practitioner Member.
- Barry S. Eckert was elected to the Board in the category of Senior Executive/Academic Officer.
- Earl Seaver was elected to the Board in the category of Public Member and to the office of Treasurer.
- Tess Kirsch was elected to the office of Vice-Chair.
- Sue Graves was elected Nominations Committee Chair.

Education Component

The professional development program of the conference - **Redefining and Enhancing the Footprint of Accreditation** - covered a broad range of topics related to the use of technology in the changing landscape of accreditation: managing a virtual office and staff; virtual site visits; an Oxford Debate on the merits of the use of technology; public outreach through social media; and good practices in electronic document management. ▲



New Board members



Katie Lukovich is a Certified Surgical First Assistant from Howell, MI. She is employed at The University of Michigan Frankel Cardiovascular Center. Katie earned her Bachelors of Applied Science from Oakland University in 2014 and is currently applying to Physician Assistant Programs throughout the state. Katie served on the Board of

Directors as the recent graduate commissioner for CAAHEP from 2010-2013. She is involved within her professional society, Association of Surgical Technologists, serving as the Secretary on the Board of Directors in Michigan and also serves on the CST exam review committee for the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting. In her free time, Katie enjoys choreographing dances for Oakland University, kayaking with her husband Ryan, and training her two westies Lucy and Ricky.



Barry S. Eckert is Dean of the School of Health Professions at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. Prior to that he was Dean of the College of Health Professions at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia. Dr. Eckert earned his Ph.D. in Anatomy from the University of Miami School of Medicine and did Postdoctoral

research at the University of Colorado. As a faculty member at the University of Buffalo, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences he taught gross human anatomy to medical, dental and allied health students and focused his research in cell biology and biochemistry. He currently focuses upon health care delivery, particularly in relation to workforce, new program development and interprofessional education. He is a fellow of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions.



Claire Dixon-Lee is Executive Director of CAHIIM (Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education), where she is responsible for health information management and health informatics programmatic accreditation, oversight of college and university relations, professional association

relationships for the disciplines within CAHIIM's scope, and the strategic direction of the accreditation organization. Dr. Dixon-

ASPA Fall Conference 2015

Preliminary Program

September 13 - 15, 2015

Washington Marriott

1221 22nd St. NW • Washington DC, 20037

Pre-sessions

Sunday, September 13th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

- **ASAHP/NN2/CAAHEP**
- **Degree Qualifications Profile – Inclusion of Doctoral Degrees?**
- **International Activities**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - **Member Session**

Members are invited to send discussion topics to the ASPA office by August 10, 2015.

Conference

Sunday, September 13th

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - **Opening Reception**

Monday, September 14th

8:30 am - 9:45 am - **Higher Education Update**

10:00 am - 11:00 am - **Congressional Staff –**

Reauthorization of Higher Education Act (invited)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - **Risk-Based Accreditation**

Education Component

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - **It's all about Good Practice**

(See page 1 for program description.)

5:15 pm - 6:45 pm - **Reception**

Tuesday, September 15th

8:30 am - 12:00 pm - **It's all about Good Practice**

continues

Post -Conference

1:15 pm - 4:00 pm - **Interprofessional Education**

Go to www.aspa-usa.org for registration and full program.

Lee is a past president of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and recipient of AHIMA's Triumph Award for Professional Achievement. Dr. Dixon-Lee earned a master's degree in Medical Epidemiology from SUNY at Buffalo and a doctoral degree in Public Health Policy and Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago - School of Public Health and holds the Certified in Public Health credential. ▲

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 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.

Some of the benefits of full 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 good practices in carrying out accreditation work and improving performance.
- **Professional development** for volunteers, staff and educators and opportunities to learn from other accreditors.
- **Current information** on important issues and developments.
- **Advocacy** to our broader communities in 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 programmatic 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 e-list to gather and share information within the membership.

ASPA also welcomes Organizational and Individual Affiliate Members

- **Organizations** with an interest in education and quality assurance that do not meet the criteria for full membership as programmatic accreditors, e.g., professional associations, continuing education providers, regional accreditors, institutional accreditors, and vendors.
- **Individuals** interested in the mission and purposes of ASPA, such as persons serving as accreditation directors within institutions, faculty, staff of professional associations, peer reviewers, education consultants, curriculum designers, deans, and program directors.

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

Mark your calendars

ASPA Spring Conference 2016

April 3 - 5, 2016 – Chicago, IL

Business meetings will be held Sunday afternoon (April 3) to allow for additional programming.

- *Elections and appointments to ASPA committees will take place – Members are encouraged to consider positions on the Nominations Committee, Membership Committee and Professional Development Committees.*

Tentative Education Program

Assuring Consistency in Accreditation Practice

With the focus on accountability, accreditors need to demonstrate consistency in:

- training new staff to assure that bias is avoided and programs are treated equitably;
- working with teams, review committees, and boards to establish inter-rater reliability and reproducible outcomes; and
- employing decision-making processes that result in fair and reliable outcomes.

Attendees will learn about the issues related to consistency in accreditation assessment and decision-making and gain ideas for enhancing the effectiveness of their accreditation operations.

Plan to attend the Spring Conference and Annual Meeting in Chicago. Registration and program information will be available on the ASPA website in late fall 2016.

Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

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