



National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

*A voluntary, regional approach
to state oversight of distance education*

Announcement of New NC-SARA Board Members

February 15, 2017

The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), which provides a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education, is pleased to announce the election of four new board members.

The SARA initiative now includes 47 states and the District of Columbia, with 1,400 participating institutions. Legislation enabling membership in SARA has been introduced in the remaining three states, and additional U.S. territories are considering membership. Information about SARA is available at www.nc-sara.org

Each of the following four new board members will serve three-year terms extending through 2019. The roster of current board members is available at: <http://nc-sara.org/about/national-council>

Kathleen Curry Santora has been Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) since February 2001. Previously, she was Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE). She also has served in various senior positions at Georgetown University and at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Scranton and a Juris Doctor from the Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America.

Peter Smith is currently the Orkand Chair and Professor of Innovative Practices in Higher Education, University of Maryland University College. He has served as a Vermont State Senator, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont and as a U.S. Congressman. He has been the founding president of three higher education institutions: the Community College of Vermont, California State University—Monterey Bay, and Open College @ Kaplan University. Smith also served as Kaplan Higher Education Group's Senior Vice President for Academic Strategies and Development.

He has also served as Dean of George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Executive Director of the US Commission on Responsibilities for Funding Post-Secondary Education, and Assistant Director General for Education of UNESCO. He has written several books on higher education.

Smith earned a BA in History from Princeton University and a MAT and Ed. D. from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Larry Tremblay is Deputy Commissioner for Planning, Research and Academic Affairs at the Louisiana Board of Regents. He received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Massachusetts–Boston, a Masters of Management degree from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Florida State University.

He is engaged in a variety of responsibilities at the Louisiana Board, including: review and approval of new and existing academic programs, research centers and institutes; the development and implementation of the state's Master Plan for Postsecondary Education; administering the Board's accountability efforts; licensing academic degree-granting institutions operating in Louisiana; licensing non-academic proprietary schools; and managing the Board's online degree initiative (Louisiana Online), the GO Grant (Louisiana's need based financial aid program), and the Health Workforce Development program. He has overseen the implementation of SARA in Louisiana.

Michael C. Zola is Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis at AASCU—the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He previously served as the Associate Executive Director for Federal Advocacy and Public Policy at the National School Boards Association (NSBA).

His experience has included more than 25 years in the federal legislative and executive branches. Positions included serving as Deputy Staff Director & Senior Counsel, Committee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives; Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs, U.S. Department of Education; Chief Investigative Counsel, Committee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives; and Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Zola received his law degree, cum laude, from the Catholic University's Columbus School of Law, a Master of Public and International Affairs degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rider University.

Background Information about SARA

SARA is overseen by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) and are being implemented by the country's four regional higher education interstate compacts: the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Once a state joins SARA, accredited degree-granting institutions in the state that offer distance education courses can seek approval from their state to participate in SARA. When approved, these institutions will be able to operate in other participating SARA states without seeking independent authorization from those states. Participating in SARA is entirely voluntary for institutions, as it is for states.

The NC-SARA board is a nationwide coordinating entity that assures the four regional compacts establish uniform standards and procedures for accepting and monitoring SARA states. A list of members is available at: www.nc-sara.org/about/national-council

About NC-SARA, MHEC, NEBHE, SREB, WICHE

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact is a nonprofit regional organization assisting Midwestern states in advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. MHEC seeks to fill its interstate mission through programs that expand postsecondary opportunity and success; promote innovative approaches to improving institutional and system productivity; improve affordability to students and states; and enhance connectivity between higher education and the workplace. Member states are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

www.mhec.org

The New England Board of Higher Education promotes greater educational opportunities and services for the residents of New England. It works across the six New England states to engage and assist leaders in the assessment, development, and implementation of sound education practices and policies of regional significance; promote policies, programs, and best practices to assist the states in implementing important regional higher education policies; promote regional cooperation and programs that encourage the efficient use and sharing of educational resources; and provide leadership to strengthen the relationship between higher education and the economic well-being of New England.

www.nebhe.org

The Southern Regional Education Board works with 16 member states to improve public education at every level, from pre-K through Ph.D. SREB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Atlanta. SREB states currently participate in SREB's Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement, and SREB is working closely with SARA to expand reciprocity nationwide. Member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

www.sreb.org

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and its 16 members work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. WICHE's members include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (the first of the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states to participate).

www.wiche.edu