

DoD Civilian Education and Professional Development Newsletter

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May – June 2009

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Accreditation Updates

The third session of the U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) negotiated rulemaking committee dealing with accreditation, [Team III--Accreditation](#), met on May 18-19, 2009 and achieved consensus on the 16 issues or regulatory statements proposed to implement the [Higher Education Opportunity Act \(P.L. 110-315\)](#) (HEOA). The goal of the [negotiated rulemaking process](#) was to: "develop regulations that achieve intended public policy goals while limiting unintended negative consequences and costs." An article appearing in the newsletter, Inside Higher Ed entitled: [Peace in Accreditation Land](#), May 20, 2009, provides an overview of the participants, key issues, and how "consensus" was reached.

All of these meetings on new accreditation issues and requirements have important implications for Defense Department educational institutions that are accredited by national, regional, or specialized agencies recognized by USDE. In large part, many of these new rules will both more directly affect accrediting agencies and modify the relationships between these accreditors and the educational (including DoD) institutions.

According to the Council on Higher Education Accreditation, there seem to be five critical areas which will change the accreditation activities of both institutions and their accrediting agencies:

1. the expanded roles of USDE officials in deciding whether accreditors will be recognized;
2. the requirement that accreditors assure that institutions track students in distance education/correspondence educational programs;
3. the additional detailed expectations associated with monitoring institutions/

programs for compliance;

4. the opportunity for USDE to request information from accreditors and require that accreditors not inform the institution or program about the request and affirmation that all information provided to the USDE is subject to the Freedom on Information Act; and
5. there are explicit rules regarding due process and conduct of appeals that accreditors must follow.

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) released Federal Update No. 5 entitled [Negotiated Rulemaking: Final Consensus On Regulatory Language Affecting Accreditation](#), on May 27, 2009. It contains a [chart](#) that lists 16 issues, states the current regulations, and describes the agreements reached on May 19, 2009.

Finally, below is a set of five suggestions for becoming more involved in this new era of accreditation given the new regulations in the Higher Educational Opportunity Act of 2008. These suggestions will enhance the participation and involvement of representatives of DoD educational institutions:

1. **Attend your accreditation agency's annual meeting.** It is anticipated that, important changes in the accreditor's standards and/or regulations will be addressed at the accreditors' meetings in 2009 and 2010.

2. **Sign up to be an accreditation site visitor.** Most accreditors conduct training sessions, often during their annual meetings to prepare



Accreditation Activities continued

qualified site-team visitors.

3. Read the Federal Register (approximately on July 31) about changes the USDE will make in the accreditation process.

4. Contact the DoD Accreditation/Certification Community of Practice, Dr. Sue Stein 703-805-5168.

This group conducts meetings/workshops and publishes documents related to accreditation for the DoD educational institutions.

5. Contact us if you have any ques-

tions or comments related to accreditation or the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. Call Dr. John R. Dill (703-696-8704) or e-mail (john.dill@cpms.osd.mil).

In a CHEA release, entitled, [CHEA Holds Inaugural CEO/CAO Roundtable](#), May 29, 2009, CHEA discussed the future of accreditation with a group of degree granting institutions. The CHEA roundtables are similar to our Federal Degree Granting Institution

(FDGI) meetings. At the meeting the CHEA President said: "The conversation focused on the importance and value of accreditation to institutions and programs. As one participant noted, accreditation contributes to a climate of trust among colleges and universities. Together, we need to work effectively to sustain the vital features of accreditation, including independence, diversity, academic freedom and institutional leadership."

DoD Civilian Education (CE) Communities of Practice (CoP) Activities

There are three existing DoD CE CoPs: DoD Accreditation and Certification; DoD Instructional Systems Design (ISD); and DoD Registrars, Admissions, & Enrollment Services (RAES). In a Faculty Development Roundtable meeting, on April 29, 2009, and a Council on Occupational Education (COE) Spring Training, on April 30, 2009, some attendees stated a need for two new educational communities. One COP would address faculty development and faculty issues and the other would address institutional research.

What's happening in each community?

- The DoD ISD CoP meeting was held on Wednesday June 10, 2009 and the three presentations will be posted at: <https://acc.dau.mil/ISD>.* The presentation titles were: *Developing critical skills in face-to-face instruction; Developing critical skills in online instruction; and Changing Platforms: Making the switch from classroom to online instructor.*

- DoD and Federal COE held a Faculty Roundtable on April 29 and COE

John.Dill@cpms.osd.mil, or 703-696-8704, if you are interested in forming a DoD Institutional Research CoP.

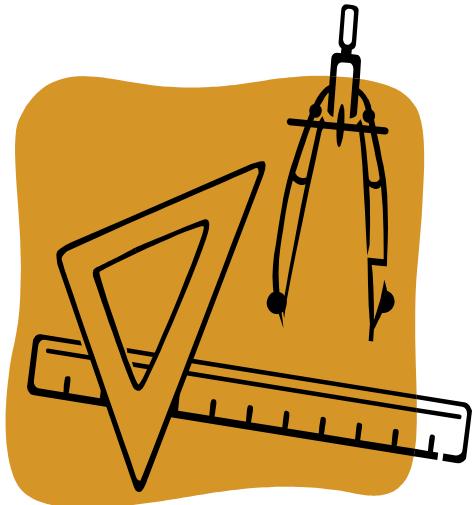
* To access content you must join these communities of practice. For DoD ISD you must have an interest in ISD work and for DoD and Federal COE you must have a tie with DoD COE accredited institutions.



training on April 30, 2009. Join <https://acc.dau.mil/dodcoe> * for details.

- The DoD Registrars, Admissions, & Enrollment Services (RAES) CoP held a planning meeting on April 21, 2009 and will start community planning in June.
- Formation of a Faculty CoP was discussed at the April 29, 2009 meeting and three faculty development related topics were presented at the DoD ISD CoP, June 10, 2009 meeting.

Please contact us at: education@cpms.osd.mil.



Other Helpful Information

CHEA Summer Workshop,

*2009 Summer Workshop Town Meeting
The CHEA Initiative, June 26, 2009,
Washington, D.C.*

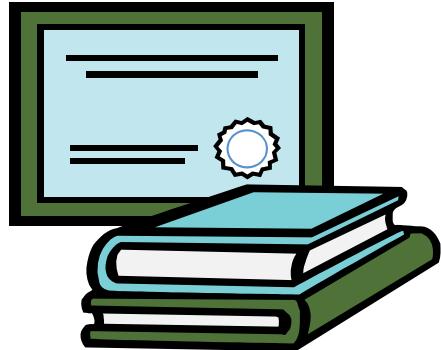
<http://www.cpms.osd.mil/hrww/>.

For information on the 2009 DoD Worldwide Education Symposium, July 27-31, visit:

Council on Occupational Education (COE) Summer Conference, July 9-10 Detroit, MI.

<http://www.ww09atlanta.com>.

The 2009 Department of Defense (DoD) Worldwide Human Resources (HR) Conference will be held on July 13 – 16, 2009 at the DoD Executive Training Center in Southbridge, Massachusetts, details are at:



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



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The DoD Civilian Education and Professional Development Newsletter is published by the Civilian Education and Professional Development Branch, in the Leader & Professional Development Division of the Civilian Personnel Management Service. We produce the DoD CE&PD Newsletter for the DoD civilian education community.

Please share with colleagues interested in DoD educational issues.

Call for Helpful Information

If you want to submit helpful information please contact us at education@cpms.osd.mil.

Web Site:

http://www.cpms.osd.mil/jldd/education_index.aspx
