

Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

**In This Edition...**

- **Mark Your Calendar: MSCHE Annual Conference Slated for December 7-9**
- **Commission Clarifies Substantive Change Policy**
- **Update on Carnegie Classification**
- **MSCHE Appoints First Senior Director for Information Systems**
- **October Professional Development Workshops**
- **Webinars on Building the Electronic Report**
- **Recent Commission Actions**

**Mark Your Calendar: MSCHE Annual Conference Slated for December 7 – 9**

MSCHE's 2016 Annual Conference will take place Wednesday, December 7, through Friday, December 9, at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, adjacent to the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The 2016 conference will include four plenary sessions, 33 concurrent sessions, five pre-conference workshops, and many opportunities to network with colleagues in the conference exhibit hall.



The conference will begin with the opening plenary session on Wednesday, December 7, at 5:00 pm. Mary E. Kennard, Vice President and General Counsel at American University, will address *The Impact of Federal Regulation on Higher Education Institutional Culture, Diversity, and Leadership*. Following Ms. Kennard's presentation, all conference attendees are invited to attend the welcome reception and opening of the conference exhibit hall from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.



Mary E. Kennard Lynne C. Schaefer

The conference will resume on Thursday morning, December 8, with a plenary session, *The CFO's Perspective: Issues and Trends That Will Affect Higher Education*. The featured speaker will be Lynne C. Schaefer, Vice President for Finance and Administration at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). Following Ms. Schaefer's address, the conference's concurrent sessions will begin.

Concurrent sessions on Thursday and Friday will address such topics as assessment, student success, accountability and transparency, institutional mission, shared governance, institutional outcomes, retention and graduation, strategic planning, online and hybrid learning within the new Standard III, resource allocation, and more. In several of the concurrent sessions, representatives of institutions that have been involved in the Commission's Collaborative Implementation Project will discuss their experiences in working with the Commission's new accreditation standards.

Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:30 pm a plenary session will address the proposed changes to MSCHE's accreditation processes and accreditation cycle.



*Patricia McGuire*

The conference will resume on Friday morning, December 9, with the closing plenary session, 9:00 to 10:00 am, featuring Patricia McGuire, President of Trinity Washington University. She will address *New Administration But Old Higher Education Challenges*. Following the plenary session attendees will participate in two more series of concurrent sessions before the conference adjourns at Noon.

MSCHE's annual Presidents and Provosts Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday morning, December 8 from 7:45 to 8:45 am, and the annual Accreditation Liaison Officers Breakfast will occur on Friday morning, December 9, from 7:45 to 8:45 am. Pre-registration is required for both of these events at the time of online conference registration. For those attending the Annual Conference but who are not a president, provost, or institution-designated ALO, continental breakfast will be offered each morning in the Exhibit Hall from 7:30 to 8:45 am.

The early registration fee for all registrations received and paid on or before November 4, 2016 is \$635 per person. After November 4, registration will be available only on-site, and at a fee of \$715 per person. The Marriott Philadelphia Downtown rate for the conference is \$214 per night plus applicable taxes (single or double occupancy).

Prior to the opening of the conference on Wednesday, December 7, the Commission will offer five pre-conference workshops. Full day workshops include *Assessing Our Assessment: How Are We Doing?* presented by Jodi Levine Laufgraben, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Assessment, Temple University; *Building Capacity in Order to Integrate Accreditation Processes into College Functions*, presented by Jacob Amidon, Associate Vice President for Academic Initiatives, and Debora Hinderliter Ortloff, Director of Academic Assessment, Finger Lakes Community College; and *Role and Responsibilities of the Accreditation Liaison Officer*, presented by members of the MSCHE staff and several experienced ALOs.

There are two half-day pre-conference workshops. The morning workshop, 8:30 – 11:45 am, is *Self-Study: Writing the Report and Preparing for the Team*, presented by Robert A. Schneider, MSCHE's Senior Vice President for Accreditation Relations; N. John DiNardo, Professor of Physics and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Drexel University; and Jacqueline

LeBlanc, Vice President for Planning and Assessment, LIM College. The afternoon workshop, 12:45 – 4:00 pm, is *Supporting the Student Experience: Using Effective Planning and Resource Allocation to Align Institutional Mission, Goals, and General Education Outcomes in Student Services*. It will be presented by Michael C. Sachs, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania.

Fees for the full-day pre-conference workshops are \$235 each and fees for the half-day workshops are \$125 each. Pre-conference workshop participants must register for the full conference and pay the conference fee in addition to registering for and paying the additional fee for the pre-conference workshop of their choice.

The preliminary conference brochure, registration information, and details on hotel reservations will be available in late August. Watch for details.

### **Commission Clarifies Substantive Change Policy**

During its June 23 meeting, the Commission approved editorial changes to its Substantive Change policy. These changes incorporate federal requirements and provide greater clarity in language and definition of each type of substantive change. In particular, the definition of Legal Status, Form of Control, or Ownership was refined to accommodate the wide variety in the types of changes in ownership and control the Commission is seeing in the current higher education landscape. In addition, Competency-Based Education (CBE)/Direct Assessment is now included as a type of substantive change to provide guidance to institutions planning the initiation of direct assessment and CBE programs. Also, the revisions provide guidance to institutions participating in a U.S. Department of Education Experimental Sites Initiative. Definitions are included at the end of the document to avoid duplication in the body of the document. To view the latest version of the Substantive Change policy, visit [www.msche.org/documents/SubChangePolicy.pdf](http://www.msche.org/documents/SubChangePolicy.pdf).

### **Update on Carnegie Classification**

The Commission uses the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education-Basic Classifications for research purposes. The Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research employs an established methodology (using IPEDS data) to develop the classification (see <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/methodology/basic.php>). MSCHE displays the Carnegie Classification in the Institution Directory and in each institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS) on the Commission website.

On October 8, 2014, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced that it transferred responsibility for the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education to Indiana University Bloomington's Center for Postsecondary Research, effective January 1, 2015. In January 2016, the Center released a preliminary version of the 2015 Carnegie Classification and collected feedback from institutions during an open comment period that lasted through February 1, 2016. Shortly thereafter the Center released the 2015 Carnegie Classification.

MSCHE recently updated each member institution's 2015 Carnegie Classification-Basic Classification in the Commission database, and it is now viewable on the MSCHE website in each institution's SAS, located within the Institutions Directory ([http://www.msche.org/institutions\\_directory.asp](http://www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp)).

Institutions that are not included in the Carnegie Classification are flagged as “Not Classified.” This means that Carnegie did not provide a classification. This typically includes institutions that do not submit IPEDS data or institutions operating outside the United States.

In order to maintain consistency in data and preserve the usefulness of the classification system for research purposes, MSCHE downloads the classification in its entirety and does not change or update the classification for individual institutions on a case-by-case basis.

If your institution has any questions regarding the 2015 classification that has been assigned, please contact the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education at [ccihe@iu.edu](mailto:ccihe@iu.edu) or visit their website at <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu>.

### **MSCHE Appoints First Senior Director for Information Systems**

Patrick J. Esmonde joined the MSCHE staff in March 2016 as the Commission’s first Senior Director for Information Systems.

As the Commission’s information systems and technology have grown more complex and the anticipated changes in accreditation processes will make the Commission more dependent on data about its institutions, the Commission deemed it essential to invest in the Information Systems position. Previously, MSCHE’s various information systems and information technology vendors were managed as part of the many duties assigned to one of the Commission’s other senior administrators.

Esmonde brings to the Commission experience as IT Director and Senior Project Leader/Support Specialist at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and Director of Information Technology for Princeton Photo Network. In addition, he has served as an adjunct assistant professor in the Villanova University School of Business.

Esmonde earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Management Information Systems from Drexel University and a Master of Technology Management degree from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and School of Engineering and Applied Science.

### **October Professional Development Workshops**

MSCHE has scheduled two new professional development workshops for October, both in Philadelphia.

*Creating an Efficient Assessment Structure That Drives Impactful Change* is scheduled for October 11, 2016 at the Courtyard by Marriott Philadelphia Downtown. The facilitators are Dr. Marc Gillespie, Professor, and Dr. Anthony Marziliano, Associate Director of Assessment, Saint John's University. For further details on this workshop, visit <http://www.msche.org/?Nav1=EVENTS&Nav2=2016.05.08>

*Assessing and Improving the Effectiveness of General Education Programs* is scheduled for October 14, 2016 at the Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel. The facilitator is Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Mayer, Associate Dean for Strategy, Policy, and Assessment, United States

Military Academy at West Point. For further details on this workshop, visit <http://www.msche.org/?Nav1=EVENTS&Nav2=2016.05.07>

### **Webinars on Building the Electronic Report**

Four dates remain in the latest series of MSCHE webinars on *Building the Electronic Report*. The webinars, led by Erin Mattson, the Commission's Director for Accreditation Services, will walk participants through the steps necessary to create and properly format an electronic report and the process of submitting it to MSCHE. Each of the webinars will last approximately one hour.

The remaining dates and times are:

August 29 at 1:00 pm  
September 13 at 10:00 am  
September 29 at 2:00 pm  
October 11 at 10:00 am

The webinars are free, but registration is required. Registration is open to all MSCHE institutional representatives, staff, and peer reviewers. To register, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2964591587771181315>

### **Recent Commission Actions**

The Commission held its most recent meeting on June 23 in Annapolis, Maryland. Initial accreditation was granted to three institutions—New York School of Interior Design, New York Academy of Art, and Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez Campus Virtual.

In addition, the Commission acted to withdraw accreditation from one institution, placed seven institutions on warning and placed one institution on probation. Four institutions were removed from warning and had their accreditation reaffirmed. The Commission took a variety of other actions involving 118 institutions. These actions involved Monitoring Reports, Progress Reports, and Supplemental Information Reports; approval of additional locations; and complex substantive changes. To view all of the Commission's June 23 actions, visit [http://www.msche.org/institutions\\_recentactions\\_view.asp?dteStart=5/3/2016&dteEnd=6/23/2016&idCommitteeType=0&txtMeeting=Commission](http://www.msche.org/institutions_recentactions_view.asp?dteStart=5/3/2016&dteEnd=6/23/2016&idCommitteeType=0&txtMeeting=Commission)