



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

**In This Edition...**

- **Institutional Profile (IP) Deadline is April 15**
- **A Note About the 2015 Carnegie Classifications**
- **2016 Annual Conference Call for Proposals**
- **Updates to Substantive Change Procedures**
- **Lebanon Valley College Chemistry Program Receives CHEA Award for Assessment Efforts**
- **Professional Development Workshops Planned for March, April, May**
- **MSCHE Schedules Webinars on Federal Compliance, Building the Electronic PRR Report, Training for Compliance Reviewers**
- **Recent Commission Actions**

**Institutional Profile (IP) Deadline is April 15**

The Institutional Profile (IP) is the Commission's annual data collection instrument. The IP opened February 8 and will run until Friday, April 15, 2016. On February 8, 2016, the individual named as the IP Key User was sent an email with login credentials and brief instructions.

Changes to the 2016 IP were minimal, and were made only if they were (1) required by federal regulations; or (2) eased data entry burden for institutions. The following changes were made to the 2016 IP:

- *Section A: General Information* - the field previously labeled *Consumer Information Website* was renamed *Student Achievement Website*;
- *Section C: Graduation Data* was renamed *Student Achievement*;
- *Section C: Student Achievement, Part 2 - Outcomes Measures* replaces the former *Part 2-Completers*. *Part 2 - Outcomes Measures* is drawn directly from a new component of the Winter IPEDS survey;
- *Section I: Financial Information, Part 1* - fields were added to allow private non-profit and for-profit institutions to report their U.S. Department of Education Financial Responsibility Composite Score.

For more information about the Institutional Profile, visit the MSCHE webpage at <http://www.msche.org/?Nav1=INSTITUTIONS&Nav2=IP>.

**A Note About the 2015 Carnegie Classifications**

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 2015, the Center released a preliminary version of the 2015 Carnegie Classification, and collected feedback from institutions during an open comment period (through February 1, 2016). In early February 2016, the Center officially released the 2015 Carnegie Classification. Because the 2015 Carnegie Classification was just released in early February and was not available to download in its entirety, MSCHE staff could not make the necessary system changes and upload institutional data in time for the

IP to open February 8, 2016. Therefore, MSCHE will continue using the 2010 Carnegie Classification-Basic Classification for the 2016 Institutional Profile (IP).

MSCHE will update member institutions' Carnegie Classification later this spring (after the IP closes) and it will be viewable on the Institution Directory and Statement of Accreditation Status on the MSCHE website. Staff will notify institutions via email when the update is complete.

## **2016 Annual Conference Call for Proposals**

The Commission is now accepting session proposals for the 2016 Annual Conference, scheduled for December 7-9 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. Proposals should focus on one of the following areas: (1) mission and goals; (2) ethics/integrity; (3) design/delivery of student learning; (4) student support; (5) student learning assessment; (6) institutional planning and resource allocation; or (7) governance. These seven areas closely align with the Commission's accreditation standards that will be used by institutions engaging in self-study beginning in 2017-18. Perspectives on the seven general areas mentioned above are welcome from various institutional types (community colleges, public, private, non-profit and for-profit institutions, research universities, etc.). Presenters are expected to share research results, best practices, or conceptual analyses. Further, it is expected that presenters will make their presentation materials available to the Commission for posting to the MSCHE website prior to the conference.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a session that addresses one of the areas described above, your application and abstract must be received no later than April 29, 2016. **Applications from non-member institutions or commercial entities will not be considered.**

To download the presentation application, visit <http://www.msche.org/?Nav1=EVENTS&Nav2=2016.01.01>.

## **Updates to Substantive Change Procedures**

The Commission published minor editorial changes in the *Substantive Change Procedures* on February 17, 2016.

Under *Section II – Submitting Substantive Change Requests*, several changes were made. For Substantive Change requests submitted by the January 1 deadline, Commission action will be anticipated by the end of February (formerly listed as March). For Substantive Change requests submitted by the November 1 deadline, Commission action will be anticipated by the end of December (formerly listed as January).

Under *Section IV – Complex Substantive Change*, “acquisition of another institution” was added as one of the examples of a change that might be considered complex.

Under *Section VI – Commission Action and Section VII – Monitoring Activities, Range of Commission Actions on Accreditation* was changed to *Accreditation Actions*, reflecting the name of the revised policy, as approved by the Commission on November 19, 2015.

To view the revised Substantive Change Procedures, click on [www.msche.org/documents/SubChangeProcedures021716.pdf](http://www.msche.org/documents/SubChangeProcedures021716.pdf)

## **Lebanon Valley College Chemistry Program Receives CHEA Award for Assessment Efforts**

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) presented its 2016 Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice to the Chemistry program at Lebanon Valley College. According to CHEA, the College's Chemistry major features an extensive set of external benchmarking exams and survey results to assess and track student outcomes throughout the four-year curriculum.

CHEA noted, "Key data collected from these exams and surveys, along with other course-embedded measures, allow the Chemistry Department to undertake short- and long-term planning and implement changes to improve student learning outcomes."

The CHEA Award was established in 2005 to recognize institutions that have been "exceptional in developing and applying evidence of student learning outcomes to improve higher education quality and accountability." A committee of representatives from higher education institutions, accrediting organizations, and the public judged entries on the basis of four award criteria: (1) articulation and evidence of outcomes; (2) success with regard to outcomes; (3) information to the public about outcomes; and (4) use of outcomes for educational improvement. Lebanon Valley College's Chemistry major was the sole recipient of the 2016 award.

Lebanon Valley College, located in Annville, PA, has been accredited by MSCHE since 1922.

## **Professional Development Workshops Planned for March, April, May**

Three professional development workshops remain on the Commission's Winter/Spring 2016 schedule.

Members of the MSCHE staff will lead a March 31 workshop on *Institutional Follow-up Reports and Visits* at the Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel. The workshop is designed for institutions that have Commission-required follow-up reports or visits stemming from their most recent MSCHE Self-Study or Periodic Review Report. Registration will continue through March 25 at \$375 per person. There will be no on-site registration.

The Commission will present a unique workshop for student services professionals and others, April 15, 2016 at the Courtyard by Marriott Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. *Developing Direct Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes in Student Services and the Student Experience* will focus on the importance of direct assessment for planning, resource allocation, student learning, and reaccreditation; how to recognize and understand the differences between direct and indirect assessment; how to distinguish between operational/program assessment and student learning outcomes assessment; how to distinguish between qualitative and quantitative assessment techniques; ways to create and use rubrics; and more. Facilitating this workshop will be Dr. Michael Sachs, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. Early registration, paid on or before March 25, is \$295 per person. Regular registration, March 26-April 8, is \$375 per person. There will be no on-site registration.

The last of the Spring professional development workshops will be *Creating and Selecting Assessment Tools*, May 20, 2016, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia Center City Hotel. Led by Dr. Jodi Levine Laufgraben, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Assessment at Temple University, this workshop will include discussions on direct and indirect measures of student learning; aligning assessment tools with learning goals; focusing on rubrics as direct measures of student learning; and reviewing the importance of evaluating and revising assessment tools as part of the continuous improvement process. Early

registration, paid on or before April 29, 2016, is \$295 per person. Regular registration, April 30-May 13, is \$375 per person. There is no on-site registration.

Participants are responsible for their own accommodations, as MSCHE has not reserved blocks of rooms at any of the workshop hotels. For further details on any of the workshops, including how to register and information on the host hotels, visit [http://www.msche.org/events\\_calendar.asp](http://www.msche.org/events_calendar.asp)

### **MSCHE Schedules Webinars on Federal Compliance, Building the Electronic PRR Report, Training for Compliance Reviewers**

In addition to ensuring that the institutional Self-Study and Periodic Review Report (PRR) processes address the Commission's standards, policies, and procedures, the Commission requires each institution to address the requirements imposed by federal and state regulatory agencies. MSCHE requires that institutions report on compliance with accreditation-relevant federal regulations at the time of the Self-Study and PRR. During a series of webinars, members of the MSCHE staff will review the requirements of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 that institutions must address in their Self-Study or PRR. In addition, there will be a review of the Commission's booklet, *Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations*. These webinars, 90 minutes each, are scheduled as follows (all times are Eastern):

March 24 - 2:00 pm  
April 11 - 10:00 am  
April 21 - 2:00 pm  
May 2 - 10:00 am

To register, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6119773239712187905>

In another series of webinars, members of the MSCHE staff will describe the steps to follow in creating and properly formatting an electronic Periodic Review Report as well as the process to follow in submitting it. These webinars, one hour each, are scheduled as follows (all times are Eastern):

March 31 - 10:00 am  
April 12 - 10:00 am  
April 28 - 10:00 am  
May 9 - 1:00 pm  
May 19 - 10:00 am

To register, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8663481295150730497>

The third series of webinars will provide training for current MSCHE peer evaluators who have been selected or are interested in being selected to review institutional reports on compliance with accreditation relevant federal regulations. These webinars, approximately 90 minutes each, are scheduled as follows (all times are Eastern):

March 22 – 12:00 Noon  
March 23 – 2:00 pm  
March 25 – 9:00 am  
April 4 – 2:00 pm  
April 12 – 2:00 pm  
April 20 – 10:00 am

April 22 – 10:00 am  
April 26 – 1:00 pm

To register, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/9207366819273567489>

### **Recent Commission Actions**

The Commission held its most recent meeting on March 3 in Philadelphia.

During the meeting the Commission voted to reaffirm the accreditation of one institution following self-study; removed two institutions from warning and reaffirmed their accreditation; removed two institutions from probation and reaffirmed their accreditation; and placed one institution on warning. In addition, the Commission granted initial accreditation to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science in Cambridge, MD.

To review the Commission's actions from March 3 and other recent meetings, visit [http://www.msche.org/institutions\\_recentactions.asp](http://www.msche.org/institutions_recentactions.asp)