

Inside Accreditation

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CHEA International Quality Group **CIQG**

THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF CHEA RECOGNITION

Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Hammond, President, Council for Higher Education Accreditation

Quick scenario – Your home is going through a renovation because you want to improve your foundational structure, the aesthetic appearance, and increase the value of your property. As a homeowner, you must continuously pay attention to all these considerations because these improvements result in a greater property valuation but also a better home.

To help you manage your work, do you solicit the support of an unlicensed contractor or property manager, or do you request the assistance of an experienced licensed property agency that has been recognized by an impartial group to operate ethically and with accountability?

I think the answer is obvious. The scenario is analogous to higher education institutions that work with accrediting organizations. CHEA-recognized accreditors hold themselves to a higher level of accountability and transparency. Through the CHEA recognition process, accrediting organizations provide evidence that they meet standards of care and respect for the mission and work of the institutions.

CHEA-recognized accrediting organizations allow themselves to go through a thoughtful but rigorous external review of their standards, practices, policies and procedures. That review is provided through the *CHEA Standards and Procedures for Recognition*. The review supported by evidence has similar results and expectations that accrediting organizations have when they review institutions and

programs. When institutions and programs are not accredited by a CHEA-recognized accrediting organization, it could mean that there is no external oversight of the accrediting organization; or that the U.S. Department of Education which reviews for Title IV compliance, could be the only external reviewer.

Whereas the U.S. Department of Education provides oversight for accrediting organizations to evaluate the institution to ensure that it can manage federal funds, CHEA-recognized accreditors review institutions and programs to verify academic quality. Verification of academic quality is the “gold star” for institutions and programs to demonstrate educational value to the public!

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Institutions and programs are to be commended for using the continuous improvement model to advance academic quality. CHEA-recognized accreditors are also to be commended for their willingness to go through an equally important accountability and continuous improvement review. It is important that accrediting organizations request no more of institutions than they ask of themselves.

Institutions, accrediting organizations, and CHEA are collaborators in ensuring student success results. Institutions and programs can be confident in knowing that CHEA-recognized accreditors are committed to their continuous improvement, ethical in their behavior,

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transparent in decision-making processes and accountable. With a CHEA-recognized accreditor, institutions and programs are stronger and students are better positioned for success.

For more on the importance of CHEA recognition, view the short video found at <https://www.chea.org/chea-podcasts-and-webinars>.

A national advocate and institutional voice for academic quality through accreditation, CHEA is a U.S. association of degree-granting colleges and universities and recognizes institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations. CHEA is the only national organization focused exclusively on higher education accreditation and quality assurance.

Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Hammond is the president of CHEA.

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One Dupont Circle, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 955-6126 | Fax: (202) 955-6129

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