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COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION ON ACCREDITATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

APRIL 27, 2010

WHEREAS, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors, since the inception of CHEA, has made attention to accountability for student achievement and transparency central to its deliberations and actions about the role of accreditation in assuring academic quality and serving the public interest;

WHEREAS, the academic and accreditation communities share a common goal of a vibrant, credible and accountable accreditation enterprise anchored in responsible self-regulation, peer/professional review and academic freedom;

WHEREAS, all higher education institutions and accrediting organizations now operate in a climate of sustained public scrutiny of accountability emerging from the intense demand for higher education, accompanied by issues about its quality and price;

WHEREAS, federal and state governments are placing primary emphasis on accountability for student learning as part of current efforts to expand educational attainment throughout the nation;

WHEREAS, robust accountability enhances the credibility of accreditation to the public while its absence threatens both accreditation's independence and credibility;

WHEREAS, the continued growth and diversification of higher education through, e.g., expansion of the for-profit sector, distance learning, new academic models, changes in technology and other innovations make careful and ongoing attention to accountability essential to accreditation review; and

WHEREAS, the international activity of higher education institutions and accrediting organizations continues to expand, with attention to accountability key to the success of these efforts.

**COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 27, 2010**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

CHEA serves as a vigorous national and international forum for discussion and action related to accountability matters in accreditation and quality assurance, engaging, through the *CHEA Initiative* and other means, interested constituents and communities, including member institutions, accrediting organizations, higher education associations, students, faculty, governing boards, government and the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

CHEA is committed to accountability and serving the public interest as central to effective accreditation and works with:

- Member institutions to encourage and support institutionally based efforts to address accountability, especially as this relates to defining and judging evidence of student achievement and transparency to the public.
- Accrediting organizations to assure and assist with efforts to enhance accountability such as those described in CHEA's 2010 statement on *Effective Practices: The Role of Accreditation in Student Achievement*.
- Students and the public to increase understanding about the value and gains realized through accreditation.
- Higher education associations to support their national initiatives on quality and accountability, e.g., the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability, the Voluntary System of Accountability and the University and College Accountability Network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

CHEA is committed to working with:

- The federal government to sustain a balance between the federal interest in accountability and responsible independence for institutions and accrediting organizations in reliable academic decision-making.
- State governments to establish greater clarity and efficiency in addressing accountability through constructive state-accreditation partnerships.
- International colleagues and organizations to further expand cooperative efforts to assure accountability for quality across borders.

Approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation Board of Directors:
April 27, 2010