

Jahan Culbraith:

Hi, I'm Jahan Culbreath. CHEA's Director of Federal Relations. With me today is Dr. Michelle Claville. She is Vice President for Research and Policy Analysis. Today we're gonna be discussing CHEA International Quality Group-- CIQG. Along with Dr. Claville's work, she also does work for CIQG. With all of that said welcome.

Michelle Claville:

Thank you, Jahan.

Jahan Culbraith:

Why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself as well as CIQG.

Michelle Claville:

I started with CHEA in the fall of 2021. And prior to coming to CHEA, I served for 20 years in higher education. Went through the professoriate and all the ranks, and, ended, you know, ended my career in that space as a full professor of chemistry. I also was an administrator, a researcher, and just all around active in higher ed. Had the opportunity to work with a wonderful team at the American Chemical Society's Committee for Professional Training. And that's the entity that approves chemistry programs and ensures quality for their programs across the nation. And more recently, prior to coming to CHEA, I was a program officer at the National Science Foundation. I'm very proud to say that all of those years that I was in higher ed was at historically Black colleges and universities too, in fact. And so you can imagine my emphasis, was for broadening participation of STEM fields ensuring that we produced the best students to engage in our nation's STEM enterprise.

Michelle Claville:

So that's about me. You want to know about CIQG, right? CIQG has been in existence for about 10 years. And it is the international arm of CHEA as the name implies. And so what is, what do we do? It's this space, it's this convener of colleagues across the world that are vested in quality assurance. And so our membership will include organizations. It will include universities. It includes consultants and so much more. But all of those members are committed to one thing, ensuring that quality assurance occurs in our higher-ed space across the globe. So what do we do? We don't just sit and talk. We actually have purpose to accomplish three things, and that is to study quality assurance matters.

Michelle Claville:

For the most part, they are matters that are of interest to the body at large. And then in that study, we understand more and more about how each member, if you will, or each, region embraces quality in the higher-ed space. And so there's this increased understanding, so that's one. Two, we provide this platform for increased engagement in international space, so there's more opportunity for international collaboration amongst our members, for the purpose of what we've said. And so, as we study, as we facilitate increased engagement, then it is our hope that this third thing happens, that we can inform policy, right? To ensure that there is as seamless as possible engagement across the regions as we continue to invest in higher ed.

Jahan Culbraith:

Do you think the first point that you made was about quality assurance?

Michelle Claville:

Yes.

Jahan Culbraith:

Do you find that there is a commonality with that amongst different countries?

Michelle Claville:

There is. There is some commonality, but of course, just like here in the United States, there are differences in the way we do things in the way we approach certain topics, but fundamentally we all want the same thing. We want to make sure that our nation is equipped with significant talent, right? Because not only does it make our nation better, but it makes our nations better. And so that lends for better exchange, better production, better everything, agreement in what we do, what we accomplish and, ideally a better world.

Jahan Culbraith:

That's good. Well said, well said. Okay, so where do you see CIQG now? What's happening now with CIQG?

Michelle Claville:

Oh, wow. CIQG is in what I call this Renaissance space, right? So there is this revival occurring in CIQG. And let me say this, because it's hard to talk about now without giving reference to the past. CIQG has this rich history in terms of how it was established, in terms of its original intent, and even the activities that led us to where we are now. So what's happening now is that there is a reinvention in the way that we communicate. One example in particular is the relaunch of our international newsletter. We have, we have several publications, but the one that I'm referring to in particular is Quality International Newsletter. For short, we call it QI news. And so QI news is an opportunity for our CIQG members; currently, there's a focus on our advisory council members, but it's an opportunity for members to showcase what's happening with regard to quality assurance in the diverse regions. Others are doing that. What's unique about the way we do it is that we have this mixed-media platform. So in our newsletter, you're not only gonna see publications, but you'll see recorded interviews. You'll see, you'll hear sound clips and, we are doing our best to make sure that we present it in a way that it reaches as many as possible, regardless of ability or, you know, differing abilities and those kinds of things. So all of that is taken into consideration in the way we formatted the letter inaugural issue of the relaunch in March. And so there's more to come. They are quarterly; it is gonna be produced quarterly. We've done. The other thing that we are doing is engaging our advisory council in a different way than we had before. What does that mean? There is a reenvisioning of what we want to do globally. That means there are more subcommittees; there's more thought processes that we want to engage in, right? And make CIQG a more dynamic entity.

Jahan Culbraith:

Okay.

Michelle Claville:

The last thing that I'll mention that we are currently engaged in is a study on equity. And this, and this is how equity relates to quality assurance internationally. We've collected, we've completed our data

collection phase . And we are in the process of analyzing the data and preparing the results of that, or preparing the presentation of the results, rather because we have the opportunity to present it at the upcoming UNESCO's World Higher Education Conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Jahan Culbraith:

Oh, very nice!

Michelle Claville:

And that's next month. So, I mentioned a revival. It's a very active revival, so we are really busy right now.

Jahan Culbraith:

Well, good. So we've heard about CIQG. We've heard about what's happening now and what's coming in the future. So if someone wants more information, where do they go?

Michelle Claville:

If you go to the, if anyone wants to know any more about CIQG, just go to the CHEA website and in that space, you'll see a section that talks about the International Quality Group. Everything that you want to know about that is right there in that space.

Jahan Culbraith:

Okay. And if someone wants to become a member of CIQG that's that's there also?

Michelle Claville:

Oh, yes, Sir. And we invite more people to become members of CIQG.

Jahan Culbraith:

Fantastic. Thank you so much today. I really appreciate all the information.

Michelle Claville:

It's been honored to be here.

Jahan Culbraith:

Thank you. Thanks for joining us. And we'll see you next time.