The Council for Higher Education Accreditation was founded by a referendum of college and university presidents who voted to establish an organization to recognize institutional and program accreditors focused on academic quality. These institutional leaders wanted an independent organization to be the academy's representative overseeing US accreditation.

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is that independent organization.

We are the only non-government organization that provides recognition of institutional and program accreditors. Our recognition standards for accrediting organizations ensure that they establish and uphold a commitment to academic quality when reviewing institutions and programs.

Just as accreditors accredit institutions and programs, CHEA is the organization that accredits the accreditors.

Institutions are in the best position to define and demonstrate evidence of academic integrity and academic quality. So, through appropriate standards, CHEA ensures that accreditors have the same commitment to institutions.

So, what can you expect from a CHEA-recognized accreditor?

Commitment to the value of peer review. Commitment to ethical and professional behavior. Commitment to transparency in decision-making. Commitment to institutional mission. Commitment to external review.

CHEA recognized accreditors have academic quality as a priority. Public confidence in colleges and universities increases because of the quality of the experiences confirmed by the recognized accreditors. Nineteen hundred plus colleges and universities trust CHEA and CHEA-recognized accreditors as evidenced by our membership.

Member institutions, thank you for your confidence in CHEA and support for your recognized accreditor.

These accreditors continue to serve students and their families—ensuring quality academic experiences for students’ success.

Thank your accreditor for being CHEA recognized. Let them know that you value their recognition.