The Council for Higher Education Accreditation

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) serves its members, students and society through advocacy for the value and independence of accreditation, recognition of accrediting organizations and commitment to quality in higher education.
Letter from the President Emeritus
Greetings from President Jackson-Hammond
2019-2020: A Year of Challenges, A Year of Accomplishments
Board of Directors
Committee on Recognition
CHEA-Recognized Accrediting Organizations
Financial Statement
Dear Colleagues:

If ever there was a year that made it clear why the Council for Higher Education (CHEA) and our work on behalf of accreditation is important, it was 2019-2020.

2019-2020 is my last year as CHEA’s president. I am proud of what CHEA has done this year – and in fact since its founding in 1996 – as an advocate for accreditation and a source of clear and concise information: Accreditation Central. This has been vitally important at a time of great uncertainty for higher education and accreditation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A few examples of CHEA’s work during this past year include:

- CHEA provided need-to-know information to members, quickly and often, about the U.S. government’s and accrediting organizations’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including updates on regulatory and policy changes affecting accredited institutions.
- CHEA made the strength of accreditation and its value to students and society its central message to lawmakers, policy leaders and media, as new accreditation regulations were put into place and legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act was introduced.
- CHEA kept its recognition review of accrediting organizations strong, as part of our work to build trust and confidence in peer review as central to higher education quality.

CHEA is there for accreditation because institutions are there for CHEA. I thank all of you who have supported CHEA not only through your membership but through your active involvement.

While I will no longer be CHEA’s president, I will continue to serve in a consulting capacity as President Emeritus. And I am certain that CHEA’s mission and activities will be ably advanced by CHEA’s new president, Cynthia Jackson-Hammond.

Thank you, and on behalf of CHEA’s Board of Directors and staff, we look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Judith Eaton
Dear CHEA Members and Accreditation Stakeholders:

While this is a report on CHEA’s activities and accomplishments in 2019-2020, I want to express how honored I am to serve as CHEA’s president and how excited I am to work with you.

Since August 2020, CHEA has been very active serving our members, including:

- Producing a series of videos titled “Conversations with CHEA” where President Emeritus Judith Eaton and I talk about CHEA’s formation, its development and converse about the future of accreditation in a post-COVID-19 environment.
- Hosting an extremely well-attended webinar on “Institutional Liability, Clinical Programs and Quality,” featuring leaders from institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations and universities. This webinar was particularly timely as higher education copes with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both institutions and accreditation.
- Presenting an analysis of the impact of the 2020 elections on the Administration and Congress, with a focus on higher education, in CHEA’s Federal Update newsletter.
- Preparing for CHEA’s first-ever virtual Annual Conference, which will focus on “change” and the impact on higher education quality, accreditation and equity. The 24th Annual Conference will be January 26-28, 2021 and will feature thought leaders from national and international communities.

CHEA is maintaining a very busy pace, which will continue throughout 2021 and beyond. Central to all our work is quality assurances in higher education through accreditation.

Accreditation is even more important than ever as higher education addresses new issues related to equity and social justice.

Hearing from members and stakeholders is vitally important. We will be reaching out to you in a variety of ways to better understand and serve you. Your voice is very important; and we want to work with you on the issues of greatest importance to accreditation and quality assurance. Together, we can do great things.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude for your membership. Your active affiliation enables us to continue our work on your behalf. Whether you are a continuing or new CHEA member, I sincerely thank you for supporting the organization and its core principles.

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation has been essential in the recognition process and as advocates for independent self-study and review in higher education for nearly 25 years. With your collaborative support, we will continue to be the standards bearer for assuring quality in higher education.

I am excited by the future and working with each of you for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Jackson-Hammond
President
2019-2020: A YEAR OF CHALLENGES, A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF MEMBERS AND ACCREDITATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic affected all of higher education as institutions moved to distance learning and accrediting organizations kept pace with changes to the colleges and universities they oversee. CHEA, in turn, responded by assuring that institutions and accreditors had the information they needed on changes to regulatory policy and accreditation practices.

• CHEA provided information on its Website to assist institutions in addressing the challenges of COVID-19, including U.S. Department of Education (USDE) guidance on accreditation and academic flexibility and a listing of accreditation policy statements put out by institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations.
• CHEA held a series of conference calls with CHEA- and USDE-recognized accrediting organizations on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hosted a Webinar on higher education and quality in Fall 2020.
• CHEA kept members informed of the latest regulatory and policy news concerning COVID-19 through a series of CHEA-mails.
• CHEA joined with Tuscany Strategy Consulting and Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security to create tools designed to assist institutions with operations while the COVID-19 pandemic persists (OpenSmartEDU.org).

PROVIDING GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP

CHEA’s work with Congress and the U.S. Department of Education was an important component of our efforts on behalf of higher education accreditation in 2019-2020, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Throughout the year, CHEA met with key Congressional staff and USDE accreditation leadership on a range of policy and regulatory issues related to accreditation.
• CHEA signed more than 25 community letters to Congress and the Administration on issues including higher education funding, visas, regulations and waivers of regulations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
• CHEA’s Federal Update kept members informed on the latest news and events related to the federal government and accreditation.
• USDE accreditation leaders and key Congressional staff addressed and participated in CHEA meetings including the 2020 CHEA Annual Conference and 2020 CHEA Summer Roundtable.
KEEPING ACCREDITED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND THE ACCREDITATION COMMUNITY INFORMED ON THE LATEST ISSUES AND NEWS

While the COVID-19 pandemic overshadowed other accreditation-related issues in the second half of the year, CHEA remained active addressing a range of issues affecting higher education quality, accreditation and quality assurance around the world.

• As part of its National Quality Dialogue, CHEA published an Opinion Editorial Series on issues related to higher education quality and accreditation and held interviews with institutional presidents on quality and accreditation.
  • An issue of Inside Accreditation, authored by CHEA President Judith Eaton, explored the topic of rethinking accreditation and quality assurance.
  • CHEA’s Website resources on Accreditation and Higher Education Act Reauthorization were updated regularly.

PROMOTING HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY THROUGH CHEA RECOGNITION

An important part of CHEA’s work in 2019-2020 was the recognition of regional, national career-related, national faith-related and programmatic accrediting organizations.

• In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CHEA provided flexibility to accrediting organizations to participate in virtual recognition reviews.
  • In 2019-2020, CHEA’s Committee on Recognition either made recommendations to the CHEA Board of Directors or took action affecting a number of CHEA-recognized accrediting organizations. Most of the actions or recommendations involved review of interim, progress or follow-up reports that the committee had requested of the accreditors.
  • The Committee on Recognition received several applications for recognition from accrediting organizations not previously recognized by CHEA.

SERVING AS A THOUGHT LEADER, CONVENER AND POLICY PARTNER ON INTERNATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE ISSUES

Quality assurance bodies, higher education institutions and associations from around the world continue to support the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) through their CIQG membership.

• The CHEA/CIQG Webinar and Podcast series produced a series of Webinars on higher education quality and quality assurance and a Podcast on the digitization of higher education and quality assurance.
  • CHEA/CIQG maintained and updated a Resources on Combatting Academic Abdullatif Alshami, President and CEO, Higher Colleges of Technology; Sonya Christian, President, Bakersfield College; and Joaquin A. Guerra-Achem, Vice President for Educational Innovation and Academic Affairs, Technológico de Monterrey, received the 2019 CIQG Quality Award on behalf of their institutions.
• The 2019 CIQG Quality Award was presented to three institutions at the 2020 CIQG Annual Meeting, to recognize higher education providers worldwide for their outstanding performance in meeting the CIQG International Quality Principles established in 2015.

INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF ACCREDITATION

CHEA’s Website, along with social media outreach through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn, served as “Accreditation Central,” informing students, parents and the public about accreditation and its value to society.

• The Database of Institutions Accredited by Recognized U.S. Accrediting Organizations was visited by more than 750,000 individuals in 2019-2020, providing information on the accredited status of colleges and universities.

• The CHEA Website also provided in-depth information about accreditation through publications and videos such as Accreditation and Its Value to You also found on YouTube.

• Throughout the year, CHEA posted hundreds of times on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, providing information and updates on accreditation-related news and events.

The 2020 CHEA Annual Conference and CIQG Annual Meeting brought together more than 300 participants from across the United States and around the world.
2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(As of June 30, 2020)

The CHEA Board of Directors is composed of up to 20 members elected for three-year terms. The members are current or former chief executive officers of degree-granting colleges and universities, other institutional members (e.g., deans, provosts, faculty) and public members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Orlando L. Taylor**
  Chair,
  Distinguished Senior Advisor to the President,
  Fielding Graduate Institute
- **Jean Wyld**
  Vice Chair,
  Professor Emeritus,
  Retired Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Springfield College
- **Nancy Marlin**
  Secretary,
  Professor and Provost Emerita,
  San Diego State University
- **Richard L. Pattenaude**
  Treasurer,
  President Emeritus,
  Ashford University
- **David Maxwell**
  Immediate Past Chair,
  President Emeritus,
  Drake University

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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  Professor,
  Case Western Reserve University
- **Joseph Brimhall**
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  Director,
  Office of University Accreditation
  North Carolina Central University
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  President,
  Jarvis Christian College
- **Paula M. Rooney**
  President,
  Dean College
- **Carlos Santiago**
  Commissioner,
  Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
COMMITTEE ON RECOGNITION
(As of June 30, 2020)

The CHEA Committee on Recognition is responsible for considering the eligibility and recognition status of new and continuing accrediting organizations. The Committee consists of nine members, each serving a three-year term, and includes public members, members from regional, specialized, national and professional accrediting organizations and members from colleges and universities.

Mary Ann P. Swain
Chair,
Bartle Professor,
State University of New York at Binghamton

Teri Cannon
Chief Accreditation Officer,
Chief Student Affairs and Operations Officer, Keck Graduate Institute and Minerva Schools at KGI

Stephanie Droker
President,
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

Neil Harvison
Chief Professional Affairs Officer,
American Occupational Therapy Association

Lucas B. Kavlie
Vice President,
Compliance & Accreditation
Western Governors University

Tanmay Pramanik
Vice President of Institutional Compliance,
Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools

David Werner
Chancellor Emeritus,
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Emily Williams
Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs
University of Pittsburgh – Bradford
CHEA-RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS  
(As of June 30, 2020)

NATIONAL FAITH-RELATED
- Association for Biblical Higher Education Commission on Accreditation
- Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools Accreditation Commission
- Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools
- Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools Accreditation Commission

NATIONAL CAREER-RELATED
- Distance Education Accrediting Commission

REGIONAL
- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- Higher Learning Commission
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Commission of Higher Education
- Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
- WASC Senior College and University Commission

PROGRAMMATIC
- Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education
- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
- Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
- Accreditation Council on Optometric Education
- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.
- Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission
- American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Council for Accreditation
- American Board of Funeral Service Education Committee on Accreditation
- American Council for Construction Education
- American Culinary Federation Education Foundation, Inc. Accrediting Commission
- American Library Association Committee on Accreditation
- American Occupational Therapy Association Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
- American Physical Therapy Association Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
- American Podiatric Medical Association Council on Podiatric Medical Education
- American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation
- American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education
- Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering
- Aviation Accreditation Board International
• Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education
• Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
• Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
• Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
• Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education
• Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education
• Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs, Inc.
• Commission on Opticianry Accreditation
• Commission on Sport Management Accreditation
• Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
• Council for Interior Design Accreditation
• Council for Standards in Human Service Education
• Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
• Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
• Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
• Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions
• Council on Chiropractic Education
• Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation
• International Accreditation Council for Collegiate Business Education
• International Fire Service Accreditation Congress Degree Assembly
• Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
• Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology
• Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board American Society of Landscape Architects
• National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
• Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation
• Planning Accreditation Board
• Psychological Clinical Science Accrediting System
FINANCIALS
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

Assets $6,782,453
Liabilities 1,147,422
Net Assets
Without Donor Restrictions 4,611,571
With Donor Restrictions 1,023,460

Revenues
Membership Dues $2,461,540
Conference Fees 236,138
Recognition Fees 180,000
Investment Return, net 95,841
International Dues 50,780
Other Revenue 5
Total Revenues $3,024,304

Expenses
Program Services:
Membership Services $1,069,009
Government Relations 673,463
Recognition Policy 568,464
CHEA International Quality Group 449,256
Research and Policy 227,876
Change Magazine 101,144
Support Services:
General and Administrative 384,548
Total Expenses $3,473,760
