

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025**

**WASHINGTON, DC**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

**Summary of Major Actions and Discussion**

*(These are not official minutes of the CHEA Board of Directors.)*

Chair Dottie King called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report**

The board of directors:

- Received the FY25 third quarter financial report.
- Received an update on FY25 institutional membership.

**Working Session**

During the Working Session, President Jackson Hammond discussed current CHEA initiatives and opportunities for FY26. She highlighted a potential Quality Assurance Regional Center (QARC) collaboration with Prince Sultan University. She informed the committee that the first international accrediting organization is up for board approval of CHEA recognition.

**Government Affairs Report**

Senior Vice President Jan Friis reported that President Trump Executive Orders regarding higher education accreditation and winding down the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) operations as quickly as possible.

The U.S. Department of Education announced initial actions to comply with President Trump's Executive Order instructing USDE to allow institutions to change accreditors and begin reviewing new accreditors more freely. If the Department does not approve a change in accrediting organization within 30 days of the date of receipt of a complete notice of this change and materials the change is deemed approved.

Friis stated that the President cannot close the USDE without passing legislation in Congress to eliminate the agency, which is unlikely to pass in the Senate.

Linda McMahon was confirmed as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). One of her first actions was to institute a reduction in force, impacting nearly 50% of USDE employees.

Friis reported other nominations for positions in the Department of Education

**PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

**Recognition**

The board of directors approved recognition for a period of seven years, with an interim report due at the mid-point of the recognition term, for three organizations:

- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP),
- Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE), and,

- EdNet Agency on Quality Assurance in Education (EdNet)

### **Election of Members to the CHEA Board of Directors**

The board of directors elected the following individuals to serve on the CHEA board for 2025–2028:

- DeRionne Pollard, President, Nevada State University\*
- Dottie King, President, Independent Colleges of Indiana\*\*
- Michael Baston, President and CEO, Cuyahoga Community College
- Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, President, Brookhaven Campus at Dallas Community College
- Jane Conoley, President, Long Beach State
- Lily Hsu, President, Laboure College of Healthcare
- Erica Holmes, President, Sisseton Wahpeton College
- Patricia Marshall, Provost, Fitchburg State University

\* *Incumbent elected to serve a three-year term.*

\*\* *Elected to one-year as Immediate Past Chair*

### **Election of 2025-2026 Board Officers**

The board of directors elected the following officers and members of the board executive committee:

- *Chair: Javier Cevallos, President, American Academic Leadership Institute*
- *Vice Chair: Catherine Welhburg, President, Athens State University*
- *Secretary: Tim Letzring, Professor and Vice Provost, University of Central Florida*
- *Treasurer: Colette Pierce Burnette, President Emerita, Huston-Tillotson University*
- *Member-at-Large: Lori Williams, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, Excelsior University*
- *Immediate Past-Chair: Dottie King, President, Independent Colleges of Indiana*

### **2025-2026 Organizational Goals and Budget**

Business Manager James Willis presented, and the board approved, the 2025-2026 organizational goals and budget that address CHEA's major function areas of government affairs, recognition, membership services, international quality assurance, research and policy analysis, and the Fellows program.

**The next meeting of the CHEA Board of Directors is  
September 29, 2025, in Washington, D.C.**