ORIENTATION FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES
Presented by
Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges

GOALS OF SESSION
- Overview of National Picture and Issues of Accreditation
- Highlights of Annual Meeting Activities

THREE TYPES OF ACCREDITING BODIES
- National
  - Accredits institutions that usually have a single purpose and are located anywhere in the country
- Regional
  - Accredits institutions that are located within a specific geographic area of the country
- Specialized or Programmatic
  - Accredits programs within an institution
REGIONAL ACCREDITING COMMISSIONS
- Seven regional accrediting agencies

REGIONALS CON’T
- Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC)
  - CEO’s and Board Chairs of each Commission
  - Common Policies and forms
  - Common Responses to US DOE and Congress
  - Work with National Associations
  - Work with International Associations
  - Develop common responses to national issues like credit hour, state authorization, etc., and common definitions of terms, e.g., warning, probation and show cause.

NATIONAL ISSUES
- Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
- Completion (graduation) rates
- Cost of higher education/Student Debt
- Transparency of information
- Credentials
- Competency Based Assessment
- Quality of for-profit institutions
**PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION**
- Section 1—Integrity
- Section 2—Mission
- Section 3—Basic Eligibility Standards
- Section 4—Governing Board
- Section 5—Administration and Organization
- Section 6—Faculty
- Section 7—Institutional Planning and Effectiveness
- Section 8—Student Achievement
- Section 9—Educational Program Structure and Content

**PROPOSED PRINCIPLES CONT'D**
- Section 10—Educational Policies, Procedures and Practices
- Section 11—Library and Learning/Information Resources
- Section 12—Academic and Student Support Services
- Section 13—Financial and Physical Resources
- Section 14—Transparency and Institutional Representation

**TYPES OF INFORMATION REQUESTED**
- Substantive Changes
  - Mergers and consolidations
  - Institutional Name Changes
  - Instructional Sites
  - New degrees and programs
  - Distance Learning
  - Changes in Governance
- Names of new presidents and liaisons
- Institutional Profile (twice a year)
REAFFIRMATION PROCESS
- Leadership Orientation
- Completion of a Compliance Certification
- Off-Site Committee Review
- Focused Report
- On-Site Committee Review
  - QEP
  - Non-Compliance Issues
  - Selected Issues for US DOE
- C&ER Committee Review
- Executive Council Review
- SACSCOC Board Approval

SACSCOC ANNUAL MEETING
- Purpose
  - To provide detailed information about the process, policies, & practices of accreditation
- Attendees
  - Presidents, Vice Presidents, Directors of IE & IR, Student Services Personnel, Faculty
- Theme
  - New Expectations, New Opportunities: Honoring the Past, Imagining the Future

CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS

Track A
- Accreditation Tracks
- Institutions that award the undergraduate degree only (Associate and Bachelors)

Track B
- Institutions that award the undergraduate AND graduate degrees, or just graduate degrees
### Classification of Institutions

**Institutional Levels**

*(Highest Degree Offered)*

- **Level I**: Associate’s degree
- **Level II**: Bachelor’s degree
- **Level III**: Master’s degree
- **Level IV**: Specialist degree
- **Level V**: Doctorate in 3 or fewer disciplines
- **Level VI**: Doctorate in 4 or more disciplines

### Program Tracks

- I. Organization
- II. Reflection
- III. Learning
- IV. Engagement
- V. Analytics
- VI. Networks
- VII. Special Topics

### Contact Information

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan  
President, SACSCOC  
404.679.4512  
bwheelan@sacscoc.org  
www.sacscoc.org