THE COUNCILOR

COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

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Dear Esteemed Members, Commissioners, and Friends,

As we find ourselves halfway through the year, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you to our latest edition of the Council on Occupational Education's quarterly newsletter. The past months have been a period of dynamic growth and progress for our organization, marked by significant achievements and continued dedication to our mission.

One of the highlights of our recent activities includes our Summer meetings in Washington, DC. This format was a first for our combined June Commission meeting and various committee meetings, including the Nominations Committee, Standards and Conditions Committee, and Policy and Rules Committee. Attendees also gained professional development opportunities and learned from thought leaders about the legislative process and initiatives concerning Education on Capitol Hill. This gathering marked an essential step in advancing our mission and strengthening our strategic initiatives.

Another milestone is the launch of EDvera, our new Accreditation Management System. This development is a true testament to our commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. EDvera is now live, enhancing our capabilities and providing a robust platform for our accreditation processes.

Our Spring Accreditation Institute in Kansas City was another significant event, with an excellent turnout and active participation. The enthusiasm and engagement of our community were truly inspiring, reinforcing the importance of our collective efforts in advancing occupational education.

I am also pleased to announce that our strategic plan has been finalized, and we are preparing for the Department of Education (DOE) Renewal Recognition process, which will kick off this month. This comprehensive roadmap will guide our future actions, ensuring alignment with the evolving needs of our member institutions and the broader educational landscape. It reflects our unwavering commitment to quality, integrity, and impact.

Additionally, we have made some organizational realignments and added new positions to our COE staff. These adjustments are aimed at enhancing our operational efficiency and supporting our strategic objectives more effectively.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find detailed updates and insights on these topics and more. From the introduction of new resources and video content to upcoming events and opportunities for engagement, we aim to keep you informed and inspired.

As we continue our journey of innovation, growth, and transformation, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to the Council on Occupational Education. Your contributions fuel our collective efforts to elevate the standards of occupational education and empower individuals to thrive in an ever-changing workforce landscape.

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and innovation, ensuring that occupational education remains a catalyst for individual and societal advancement.

Strategy 2030: COE's Strategic Plan

We are pleased to announce that our strategic plan has been finalized. During our Strategic Planning Committee meeting in June 2024, the new strategic plan entitled "Strategy 2030" was adopted by the Commission. This comprehensive plan outlines our goals and priorities for the next five years, ensuring that we continue to support our member institutions and promote excellence in occupational education.

A special word of acknowledgment to our Strategic Planning Committee members, Affinity Groups, and for all of those who took the time to attend our various feedback sessions. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the overall goal of continuous improvements in occupational education.

To read our Strategic Plan visit www.council.org/strategic-plan/

EDvera: Our New Accreditation Management System

We are excited to announce that the EDvera Accreditation Management System officially went live on June 1. This new system will streamline our accreditation processes and improve efficiency for all member institutions. During Phase One, we migrated data over from MyCouncil and began validating that data, as well as making sure all member institution contacts and their login access was correct. We are currently in Phase Two of our implementation, with all substantive change forms now available via EDvera, as they are no longer available on our website.

Currently, 450 out of 500 member institutions have logged into the system. If you are an accredited institution and have not logged into EDvera, we strongly encourage you to do so. You can access EDvera from our website by clicking the button in the top right-hand corner at www.council.org or by visiting https://council.edvera.com/.

Looking ahead, Phase Three, which will be introduced in August, includes the Team Visit module, and Phase Four, scheduled for September, will feature the rollout of the Annual Report module.

Please also note that as if July 1, MyCouncil records will be converted into a historical database. Member institutions can access data for information purposed only.

Spring Accreditation Institute Was a Success

We are pleased to report that the COE Spring Accreditation Institute, formerly known as the Summer Conference, went smoothly and enjoyed a great turnout of 340 attendees in Kansas City. We received fantastic feedback from participating institutions, highlighting the value and impact of the event.

The primary purpose of the Spring Accreditation Institute is to prepare institutions for initial and reaffirmation accreditation. We facilitated 26 workshops and working sessions which focused on the practical applications of maintaining compliance with accreditation standards, and we offered Team Member and Team Leader certification training. The Institute provided an excellent opportunity for our members to network with other postsecondary leaders.

On behalf of the Commission, a Special Business Meeting was held on May 1, 2024. The meeting agenda included two business items: a report from the By-Laws Committee on updates to the Council on Occupational Education By-Laws and a report from the Standards & Conditions Committee on amendments to the 2024 Standards and Conditions, some of which will take effect in 2025.

This year's Institute featured additional events such as the 2025 Accreditation Cohort Orientation, Negotiated Rule-making Update, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner event, and the unveiling of the Sue Schooler Hall of Fame Award.

We appreciate the engagement and contributions of all our members. If you were in attendance, please complete our survey to help us continue to make improvements: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/38B8TJW

The Sue Schooler Hall of Fame Award

We're proud to announce the exceptional honorees of the inaugural Sue Schooler Award!

Recognizing the dedication and vital contributions of COE team members & leaders, we're thrilled to honor: Alice Suzanne Andrews, Erika Boardman, Lee Chayes, Diane Culpepper, Paul Fair, Rhett Mathieu, Howard Moore, David Osborne, and James King.

Named in admiration of Sue Schooler's 30+ years of unwavering commitment to COE, we are privileged to carry forward her legacy through this distinguished accolade. Congratulations to all the deserving recipients!

Advancing Our Mission: Recap of COE's Washington, D.C. Combined Committee and Commission Meetings

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) recently held its Summer meetings in Washington, DC, combining the June Commission meeting with various committee meetings. This event marked a significant step in advancing our mission and strategic initiatives. Committee members reviewed policy updates based on federal regulations and discussed ways to strengthen our accreditation approach. Guest speakers, including Luis Maldonado from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Emmanual A. Guillory from the American Council on Education, and Mary Christina Riley from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, provided valuable insights into higher education policy and advocacy. The meetings also included reviews and approvals of COE's five-year strategic plan and preparations for the DOE Recognition Review.

The Washington, DC, meetings were a resounding success, providing valuable insights and strengthening our strategic direction. Visits to landmarks such as The White House and Capitol Hill reinforced the importance of our mission in the broader context of national policy. We look forward to building on this momentum to advance the cause of career and technical education. To read more about our Summer meetings and the insights gained, visit https://council.org/news

We acknowledged the retirement of Commissioner Michael "Mike" Gannon from the Commission. Mike retired as the Provost for the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Maryland, in November 2014, after a distinguished career in both military and civilian service. His notable positions include overseeing program evaluation and analysis, academic support services, and outreach programs, along with serving on the Federal Executive Board in Baltimore and the Maryland Combined Federal Campaign. Serving on the Commission since 2008 as a Commissioner as well as committee member, Mike has been an invaluable part of our community, contributing significantly to our mission.

COE Welcomes New Commissioner Dr. Alvetta Peterman Thomas

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) is pleased to welcome Dr. Alvetta Peterman Thomas as a new commissioner. Dr. Thomas currently serves as President of the Executive Leadership Academy and Talent Initiatives for the Technical College System of Georgia, where she provides system-wide leadership for a comprehensive leadership development program. Previously, she was President of Southern Crescent Technical College and Atlanta Technical College, where she significantly improved key performance indicators, increased partnerships, and oversaw major campus expansions and renovations. Dr. Thomas also brings extensive experience from her roles with the US Department of Defense and Alabama State University, as well as her consulting work supporting education initiatives for at-risk students and leadership development for underrepresented women. Her recognized expertise in higher education leadership and data-driven decision-making will greatly benefit the COE.

COE Leadership Changes

As we start a new fiscal year in alignment with our new strategic plan, we have made some key staff changes at the Council on Occupational Education (COE). Dr. Tangela Purifoy has been appointed as Vice President of Institutional Evaluation, Dr. Kallan Williams as Vice President of Institutional Compliance, Dr. Warren Haynes as Vice President of Agency Operations, Mia Johnson as Director of Communication & Events, and Cherie Jolley as Assistant Vice President of Institutional Compliance. Over the next couple of months, we will also be adding new positions and growing our staff to be in an even better position to serve our member institutions and students. You may visit our Career Opportunity page to view open positions: https://council.org/career-opportunities/

NACIQI Recognition Decision and Renewal

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) is pleased to announce the successful outcome of its recent participation in the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) Compliance Hearing held on February 26, 2024. The COE leadership, alongside members of the Commission Executive Committee, engaged virtually with the NACIQI board to address compliance matters outlined in the report.

The meeting proved to be both constructive and informative, with the NACIQI board offering valuable feedback and posing insightful questions to the COE representatives. Following thorough consideration, the NACIQI board recommended that the Senior Department Official accept all recommendations presented in the Final Staff Report for the Council on Occupational Education.

An official letter was received on May 28, 2024, confirming COE's continued recognition from the Department of Education. Acceptance of these recommendations ensures COE's continued recognition by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), marking a significant milestone for the organization. COE is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of quality education and accreditation, and this recommendation underscores the commitment to excellence that the institution embodies.

"As Chair of the Commission, I am immensely proud of the Council on Occupational Education's dedication to technical education and accreditation excellence. The positive recommendation from the NACIQI Compliance Hearing is a testament to COE's unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards. This endorsement reaffirms our efforts and underscores the significant strides we've made in ensuring quality education that prepares students for employment, serves industry needs, and strengthens communities. We are grateful for the insightful feedback from the NACIQI board and remain steadfast in our pursuit of continuous improvement." states Kim Ziebarth, COE Commission Chair.

With this endorsement, COE is now gearing up for its upcoming recognition review scheduled for July 2024. The organization remains committed to continuous improvement and looks forward to demonstrating its ongoing compliance and commitment to quality education.

Fall Candidate Academy

Interested in learning more about the accreditation process? Want to become accredited by COE? Attend our upcoming Fall Candidate Academy. taking place October 9-10, 2024 at the Kimpton Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Registration cost is $625.00.

Register: https://www.eventsquid.com/event/24264

Fall Annual Meeting

Our Fall Annual Meeting will take place November 12-14, 2024 at the Westin Peachtree, Atlanta, GA. Registration will open Aug 15, 2024. Registration cost will be $755.00.

If you are interested in becoming a partner/sponsor of the conference, we are looking for Thought Partners and are open to proposals. We will send more details soon for an official call for proposals. Please contact Mia Johnson, mia.johnson@council.org

Important Reminders

- **Membership Dues** - Annual dues are due **July 1, 2024.** Note that any dues paid after this date will incur a late fee. Additionally, certificates will be sent out later in the month of July. If you have any questions or find any issues, please email COE at accounting@council.org.

- **September Commission Meeting Materials** - The deadline to submit materials to be included in the September Meeting is **July 24, 2024**.

- **Policies and Rules Manual** - We have made recent Commission changes to the Policies and Rules Manual. You can find the latest version on our website at the following link: https://council.org/handbooks/.

- **New Instructional Videos** - We're excited to launch our first set of videos July 15th to our website. These videos will include the following topics: *Maintaining Your Accreditation File and Using the COE Seal* and *What to Expect on Your First Team Visit.*