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COE President and CEO Dr. Kirk A. Nooks Participates in Accreditor Panel at 2026 CAPPS Annual Conference

ATLANTA, GA — [October 16, 2026] — Council on Occupational Education (COE) President and CEO Dr. Kirk A. Nooks participated as a panelist at the 42nd Annual Conference of the California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPS), held October 7–9, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine in San Diego, California.

The annual conference brought together institutional leaders, education professionals, and industry stakeholders for professional development, policy updates, and discussions surrounding the evolving landscape of private postsecondary education. The event provided a forum for exchanging perspectives on issues affecting institutions and the students they serve.

As a panelist, Dr. Nooks represented COE and contributed an accreditation perspective to the conference's broader conversations on postsecondary education. His participation reflected COE's ongoing engagement with educational leaders and organizations working to advance institutional quality, accountability, and student success. COE currently accredits approximately 30 non-public/private institutions in California.

“Accreditation plays an essential role in strengthening institutional effectiveness and ensuring that educational programs remain responsive to the needs of students and the workforce,” said Dr. Nooks. “Opportunities to engage with leaders across the postsecondary education sector are valuable as we navigate changing expectations, reinforce accountability, and continue advancing the quality of career and technical education.”

The conference also provided an opportunity for COE to maintain its presence in national conversations surrounding postsecondary education and the role of accreditation in supporting institutional improvement. Through participation in professional forums such as CAPPS, COE continues to contribute its perspective on educational quality and the preparation of a skilled workforce.

For more information about the Council on Occupational Education, visit www.council.org.

About the Council on Occupational Education:

The Council on Occupational Education is a leading accreditor for over 500 postsecondary occupational education institutions in over 40 states. With a commitment to quality and continuous improvement, COE works to assure quality and integrity in career and technical education. For more information about the Council on Occupational Education and its mission, please visit www.council.org

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