

Slide 1

**An Accreditation Quandary:
Cops or Consultants**

Association of Educators in Imaging
and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS)


Honor's Lecture
Leslie F. Winter, M.S., R.T.(R)

2011 Annual Conference
Orlando, Florida
June 8, 2011

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What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is the process of **voluntary**, external **peer** review in which a **nongovernmental** agency grants public recognition to an institution or specialized program of study that meets established qualifications and complies with educational **standards**, as determined through initial and subsequent **periodic** evaluations.




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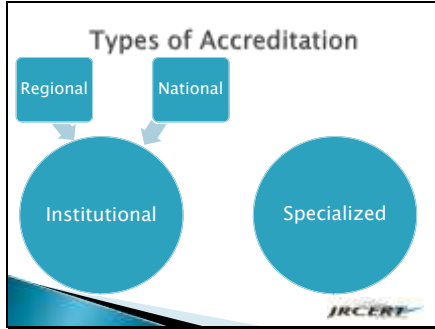
Purpose of Accreditation

Accreditation in the United States	
Quality of Education	Verifies that program meets standards established by profession
Financial Aid Opportunities	Helps to identify institutions / programs for the investment of private and public funds
Transfer Credit(s)	Assists institutions / programs in determining the acceptability of transfer credits
Employers	Establishes criteria for certification, licensure and many employers require graduation from an accredited institution / program

Source: USDE. www.ed.gov



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Slide 5

The slide is titled "Types of Accreditation". It has two blue boxes. The first is labeled "Regional" and contains the text: "Performs accreditation of degree granting, not-for-profit institutions in six (6) regions of the U.S." The second is labeled "National" and contains the text: "Performs accreditation of mostly (65%) non-degree granting, for-profit institutions that are single purpose. (faith-based or technical/vocational schools)". The JRCERT logo is in the bottom right corner.


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The slide is titled "Types of Accreditation". It has one blue box labeled "Specialized (Programmatic)" containing the text: "Reviews individual programs or specific fields of study; such as, health sciences, law, engineering, etc." The JRCERT logo is in the bottom right corner.

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External Recognition


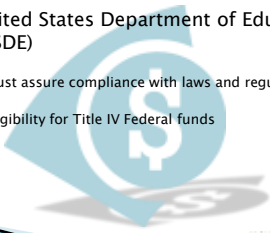
- ▶ Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
 - To enhance and improve the quality of accrediting agencies
 - To be eligible for CHEA recognition, there must be an emphasis on serving the public's interest (transparency) and more than 50% of accredited programs must be degree granting



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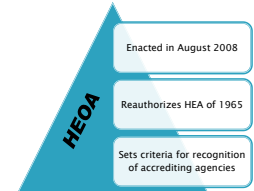
External Recognition

- ▶ United States Department of Education (USDE)
 - Must assure compliance with laws and regulations
 - Eligibility for Title IV Federal funds




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Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)



- Enacted in August 2008
- Reauthorizes HEA of 1965
- Sets criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies



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National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)


- ▶ 18 Member Advisory Committee appointed by President
 - 6 Senate appointments
 - 6 House of Representatives appointments
 - 6 Education Department appointments
- ▶ Advises the Secretary of Education regarding the enforcement of criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies



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Federalizing Accreditation

- ▶ Refers to growth requirements in federal law that accreditors must meet as a condition of being recognized by USDE (J. Eaton, CHEA)
- ▶ Why?
 - Misuse of federal financial aid and taxpayers dollars
 - High student loan default rates and declining job placement and program completion rates (CHEA)



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Congressional Hearings

- ▶ Senate Hearings:
 - Focused on for-profit education
 - Accreditation oversight
- ▶ House of Representative Hearings:
 - Focused on new Federal regulations and the resulting burden to colleges/universities and accreditors



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For-Profit Education

- ▶ \$20 billion dollar industry (Title IV Federal Loans)
- ▶ Target High Risk Students
 - Low income
 - First generation college student
 - Ethnic
- ▶ 57% of students will withdraw within 1 year
- ▶ Students will accrue \$275 billion dollar loan default debts in 2011

HELP Committee
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**Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
(HELP)**

- ▶ *Bridgepoint Education, Inc.: A Case Study in For-Profit Education and Oversight*
- Mount St. Claire bought by 4 Wall Street executives
- Ashford University - regionally accredited
 - Enrollment:
 - 2005 - 300 students
 - 2010 - ~78,000 students (99% enrolled in distance)
 - Profits:
 - 2007 - \$3.9 million dollars
 - 2010 - \$216 million dollars
 - 86% of revenues from Federal government
 - ~\$600 million annually in Federal subsidies

HELP Committee
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Ashford University

- ▶ 1700 enrollment advisors
- ▶ 40% of profits for marketing, recruiting, student resources
 - \$700 per student spent on instruction
 - \$36.7 million dollar salaries = top 5 executives
 - \$20 million dollar salary for CEO
- ▶ 1 job placement officer

HELP Committee
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Ashford University

- ▶ Accreditation – Higher Learning Commission
 - Change in Ownership
 - Substantial Growth
 - Distance Education
 - Oversight of how federal dollars spent
 - Cost (salaries)

Scrutiny and oversight by accreditors must be greater when federal dollars are involved



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Federalization Continues...

- ▶ Defines credit hour
- ▶ State Authorization
- ▶ Monitor enrollment growth
- ▶ Monitor enrollment growth in distance education
- ▶ Gainful employment (debt to earning ratio)
- ▶ Job placement and Program completion rates
- ▶ Transparency



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