

the general public of their opportunity to attend. This notice also describes the functions of the Council. Notice of the Council's meetings is required under Section 10 (a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and by the Council's charter.

Agenda: The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the Federal Interagency Plan and the tasks outlined for implementation. Other topics will include Council subcommittee reports on Indian education research, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) updates, and planning for the consultation sessions as identified in Executive Order (E.O.) 13336.

Date and Time: October 26, 2004—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 North Second Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004. Moran Room, 2nd Floor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernard Garcia, Group Leader, Office of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: 202-260-1454. Fax: 202-260-7779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council advises the Secretary of Education concerning the funding and administration (including the development of regulations, and administrative policies and practices) of any program, including any program established under Title VII, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to which the Secretary has jurisdiction and that includes Indian children or adults as participants or that may benefit Indian children or adults. The Council submits to the Congress, not later than June 30 of each year, a report on the activities of the Council, including any recommendations that the Council considers appropriate for the improvement of Federal education programs that include Indian children or adults as participations or that may benefit Indian children or adults, and recommendations concerning the funding of any such program. The Council also makes recommendations to the Secretary for filling the position of the Director of Indian Education whenever a vacancy occurs.

The purpose of E.O. 13336, dated April 30, 2004, is to assist American Indian and Alaska Native students in meeting the challenging student academic standards of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) in a manner that is consistent with tribal traditions, languages, and cultures. The E.O. establishes a Federal Interagency Working Group on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (Working Group) to oversee

the implementation and the Working Group may consult with representatives of NACIE.

The general public is welcome to attend the October 26, 2004 meeting. Individuals who need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (*i.e.*, interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify Bernard Garcia at 202-260-1454 by October 15, 2004. We will attempt to meet requests after this date, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

A summary of the activities of the meeting and other related materials that are informative to the public will be available to the public within 14 days after the meeting. Records are kept of all Council proceedings and are available for public inspection at the Office of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 5C141, Washington, DC 20202.

Dated: October 7, 2004.

Rod Paige,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-22977 Filed 10-13-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, (National Advisory Committee); Meeting

AGENCY: National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Department of Education.

What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

The purpose of this notice is to announce the public meeting of the National Advisory Committee and invite third-party oral presentations before the Committee. This notice also presents the proposed agenda and informs the public of its opportunity to attend this meeting. The notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

When and Where Will the Meeting Take Place?

We will hold the public meeting on December 13, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 5 p.m., on December 14, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 5 p.m., and on December 15, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. in Salon I at the Ritz Carlton Hotel at Pentagon City, 1250 South Hayes Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202. You may call

the hotel on (703) 415-5000 to inquire about rooms.

What Assistance Will Be Provided to Individuals With Disabilities?

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting (*e.g.*, interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format), notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although we will attempt to meet a request received after that date, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Who Is the Contact Person for the Meeting?

Please contact Ms. Bonnie LeBold, the Executive Director of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, if you have questions about the meeting. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7007, MS 7592, 1990 K St., NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7009, fax: (202) 219-7008, e-mail:

Bonnie.LeBold@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

What Is the Authority for the National Advisory Committee?

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity is established under Section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA) as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1011c.

What Are the Functions of the National Advisory Committee?

The Committee advises the Secretary of Education about:

- The establishment and enforcement of the criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies or associations under subpart 2 of part H of Title IV, HEA.
- The recognition of specific accrediting agencies or associations.
- The preparation and publication of the list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations.
- The eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education under Title IV, HEA.
- The development of standards and criteria for specific categories of vocational training institutions and institutions of higher education for which there are no recognized accrediting agencies, associations, or

State agencies in order to establish the interim eligibility of those institutions to participate in Federally funded programs.

- The relationship between: (1) accreditation of institutions of higher education and the certification and eligibility of such institutions, and (2) state licensing responsibilities with respect to such institutions.

- Any other advisory functions relating to accreditation and institutional eligibility that the Secretary may prescribe.

What Items Will Be on the Agenda for Discussion at the Meeting?

Agenda topics will include the review of agencies that have submitted petitions for renewal of recognition, agencies that have submitted interim reports, an agency that has submitted a progress report and requested an expansion of scope of recognition, and a Federal agency seeking degree-granting authority.

What Agencies Will the Advisory Committee Review at the Meeting?

Please note that the agencies listed below, which were originally scheduled for review during the National Advisory Committee's June 2004 meeting, were deferred and will be reviewed at the December 2004 meeting.

- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.
- American Academy for Liberal Education.
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation.
- National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation.
- National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation, Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation, Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation.
- National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation.
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions.
- Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs.

Any requests for third-party oral presentations regarding these agencies that were received by May 21, 2004, in

accordance with the **Federal Register** notice published on March 26, 2004, will become part of the official record. Those comments will be considered by the National Advisory Committee when it reviews the agencies at the December 2004 meeting.

The following agencies will be reviewed during the December 2004 meeting of the Advisory Committee:

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies

Petitions for Renewal of Recognition

1. Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (Current scope of recognition: the accreditation of private, postsecondary allied health education institutions and institutions that offer predominantly allied health programs, private medical assistant programs, and public and private medical laboratory technician programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science and the Associate of Occupational Science degrees.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions in the United States offering predominantly allied health education programs, and the programmatic accreditation of allied health programs, leading to a certificate, diploma, or the Associate of Applied Science and Associate of Occupational Science degrees, including those offered via distance education.)

2. Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary, non-degree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions, including those granting associate and baccalaureate degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and technical careers, and including institutions that offer programs via distance education.) (Requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of private, postsecondary, non-degree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions in the United States, including those granting associate and baccalaureate degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and technical careers, and including institutions that offer programs via distance education.)

3. American Psychological Association, Committee on Accreditation (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school and combined professional-scientific psychology;

predoctoral internship programs in professional psychology; and postdoctoral residency programs in professional psychology.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation in the United States of doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school and combined professional-scientific psychology; predoctoral internship programs in professional psychology; and postdoctoral residency programs in professional psychology.)

4. National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences and massage therapy.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences and massage therapy in the United States.)

5. Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, Accreditation Commission (Current scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate" status) of postsecondary institutions that offer certificates, diplomas, and associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees, including institutions that offer distance education.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate" status) of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer certificates, diplomas, and associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees, including institutions that offer distance education.)

6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (Current and requested scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of adult and postsecondary schools that offer programs below the degree level in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.)

Petition for an Expansion of Scope and a Progress Report

(A petition for an expansion of scope and a progress report on the agency's experience with its new method and system to assess its institutions' success with respect to student achievement.)

1. Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States offering programs primarily by the distance

education method up through the first professional degree level. Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree programs primarily by the distance education method up through the first professional degree level, and are specifically certified by the agency as accredited for Title IV purposes; and the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States not participating in Title IV that offer programs primarily by the distance education method up through the first professional degree level. Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs, other than to permit degree-granting schools certified by DETC as accredited for Title IV purposes to establish eligibility to participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program.)

Interim Reports

(An interim report is a follow-up report on an accrediting agency's compliance with specific criteria for recognition that was requested by the Secretary when the Secretary granted renewed recognition to the agency.)

1. American Academy for Liberal Education.
2. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.
3. Commission on English Language Program Accreditation.
4. Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, Commission on Accreditation.
5. National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation.
6. National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation.
7. National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation, Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation, Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation.
8. National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation.
9. New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.
10. New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions.
11. Teacher Education Accreditation Council, Accreditation Committee.

State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education

Petitions for Renewal of Recognition

1. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
2. Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs.

Interim Report

1. Missouri State Board of Education.

Federal Agency Seeking Degree-Granting Authority

In accordance with the Federal policy governing the granting of academic degrees by Federal agencies (approved by a letter from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, to the Secretary, Health, Education, and Welfare, dated December 23, 1954), the Secretary is required to establish a review committee to advise the Secretary concerning any legislation that may be proposed that would authorize the granting of degrees by a Federal agency. The review committee forwards its recommendation concerning a Federal agency's proposed degree-granting authority to the Secretary, who then forwards the committee's recommendation and the Secretary's recommendation to the Office of Management and Budget for review and transmittal to the Congress. The Secretary uses the Advisory Committee as the review committee required for this purpose. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will review the following institution at this meeting:

Proposed Master's Degree-Granting Authority

1. National Defense University, Joint Forces Staff College, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Norfolk, VA (request to award a Master's in Science (M.S.) degree in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy).

Who Can Make Third-Party Oral Presentations at This Meeting?

We invite you to make a third-party oral presentation before the National Advisory Committee concerning the recognition of any agency published in this notice.

How Do I Request To Make an Oral Presentation?

You must submit a written request to make an oral presentation concerning an agency listed in this notice to the contact person *so that the request is received via mail, fax, or e-mail no later than November 22, 2004*. Your request

(*no more than 6 pages maximum*) must include:

1. The names, addresses, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of all persons seeking an appearance,
2. The organization they represent, and
3. A brief summary of the principal points to be made during the oral presentation.

If you wish, you may attach documents illustrating the main points of your oral testimony. Please keep in mind, however, that *any attachments are included in the 6-page limit*. Please do not send materials directly to Committee members. Only materials submitted by the deadline to the contact person listed in this notice and in accordance with these instructions become part of the official record and are considered by the Committee in its deliberations. Documents received after the November 22, 2004 deadline will not be distributed to the Advisory Committee for their consideration. Individuals making oral presentations may not distribute written materials at the meeting.

If I Cannot Attend the Meeting, Can I Submit Written Comments Regarding an Accrediting Agency in Lieu of Making an Oral Presentation?

This notice requests third-party oral testimony, not written comment. Requests for written comments on agencies that are being reviewed during this meeting were published in the **Federal Register** on February 5, 2004, July 16, 2004 and August 11, 2004. An additional notice requesting written comments is being published in today's **Federal Register**. The Advisory Committee will receive and consider only written comments submitted by the deadlines specified in the above-referenced **Federal Register** notices.

How Do I Request To Present Comments Regarding General Issues Rather Than Specific Accrediting Agencies?

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee, at its discretion, may invite attendees to address the Committee briefly on issues pertaining to the functions of the Committee, which are listed earlier in this notice. If you are interested in making such comments, you should inform Ms. LeBold before or during the meeting.

How May I Obtain Access to the Records of the Meeting?

We will record the meeting and make a transcript available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K St., NW., Washington, DC 20006 between the

hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. It is preferred that an appointment be made in advance of such inspection.

How May I Obtain Electronic Access to This Document?

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Authority: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

Dated: October 7, 2004.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for the Approval of Nurse Education

AGENCY: National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Department of Education (The Advisory Committee).

What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

On August 11, 2004, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** to invite written comments on the petition for expansion of scope submitted by the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) that will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on December 13-15, 2004. This notice amends the requested scope of recognition to clarify the relationship between an institution's recognition by DETC and the institution's Title IV eligibility. This notice invites written comments on the amended scope of recognition requested by DETC.

Petition for an Expansion of Scope

1. Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States offering programs primarily by the distance education method up through the first professional degree level. Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree programs primarily by the distance education method up through the first professional degree level, and are specifically certified by the agency as accredited for Title IV purposes; and the accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States not participating in Title IV that offer programs primarily by the distance education method up through the first professional degree level. Title IV Note: Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs, other than to permit degree-granting schools certified by DETC as accredited for Title IV purposes to establish eligibility to participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program.)

Where Should I Submit My Comments?

Please submit your written comments by November 15, 2004 to Carol Griffiths, Accrediting Agency Evaluation, Accreditation and State Liaison. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 7th Floor, Room 7105, Washington, DC 20006-8509, telephone: (202) 219-7011. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

What is the Authority for the Advisory Committee?

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity is established under Section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1011c. One of the purposes of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of Education on the recognition of accrediting agencies and State approval agencies.

Will This Be My Only Opportunity To Submit Written Comments?

Yes, this notice announces the only opportunity you will have to submit written comments. However, another **Federal Register** notice will announce the meeting and invite individuals and/

or groups to submit requests to make oral presentations before the Advisory Committee on the agencies that the Committee will review. That notice, however, does not offer an opportunity to submit written comment.

What Happens to the Comments That I Submit?

We will review your comments, in response to this notice, as part of our evaluation of the Distance Education and Training Council's compliance with the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies. The Criteria are regulations found in 34 CFR Part 602 (for accrediting agencies).

We will also respond to your comments, as appropriate, in the staff analysis we present to the Advisory Committee at its December 2004 meeting. Therefore, in order for us to give full consideration to your comments, it is important that we receive them by November 15, 2004. In all instances, your comments regarding the Distance Education and Training Council must relate to the Criteria for Recognition.

What Happens To Comments Received After the Deadline?

We will review any comments received after the deadline. If such comments, upon investigation, reveal that the accrediting agency is not acting in accordance with the Criteria for Recognition, we will take action either before or after the meeting, as appropriate.

Where Can I Inspect Petitions and Third-Party Comments Before and After the Meeting?

Subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 522, petitions, interim reports, and those third-party comments received in advance of the meeting, will, upon written request, be made available, by appointment, for inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 7th Floor, Room 7105, Washington, DC 20006-8509, telephone (202) 219-7011 until November 17, 2004. They will be available again after the December 13-15 Advisory Committee meeting.

How May I Obtain Electronic Access to This Document?

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