



Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

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Roll-Out of New User Interfaces and the Annual Institutional Update

For the past year, MSCHE has been making significant improvements to its technology infrastructure. New hardware has geometrically increased transaction speeds, thus laying the foundation for the development and implementation of a more robust integrated software platform and accompanying user interfaces. The target date for launching the new administrative database, member portal, and MSCHE website is August 6, 2018.

MSCHE is choosing not to populate an old database with new fields and information. Therefore, the Annual Institutional Update (AIU) will launch from the new system rather than from the old. As a result, ***for the 2018 collection ONLY***, the AIU will open August 27 and close September 28. Going forward, the AIU collection will regularly occur in the Spring.

Between now and the August 6 public launch, members will receive a series of announcements and training tools/opportunities to enable a smooth transition from MSCHE's current interface and related processes to the new.

If you have any questions at this time, please email research@msche.org.

Spring Professional Development Activities

MSCHE has scheduled four professional development workshops for Spring, all in Philadelphia.

A Rising Tide Floats All Boats: Campus-Wide Student Success and Completion is scheduled for April 9, 2018, at the Courtyard by Marriott - Philadelphia Downtown. The workshop presenters will discuss critical issues in higher education that impact student success. Participants will learn how to create student-centered experiences by involving key campus stakeholders.

Evidence to Prove Our Worth: Using Assessment Tools and Data - Linking Student Services to Institutional Mission and Goals is scheduled for April 13, 2018, at the Courtyard by Marriott - Philadelphia Downtown. This workshop will explore various assessment tools within student services and

how to link assessment outcomes to mission, goals, planning processes, general education outcomes, and the resource allocation process.

Using a Balanced Scorecard Approach to Strategic Planning is slated for April 23, 2018, at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Philadelphia Center City. The balanced scorecard is a model for strategic planning that helps align activities and initiatives to the vision and strategy of an institution, and helps improve communication of the plan to internal and external stakeholders. It provides a dashboard to monitor key performance indicators.

Institutional Effectiveness: Bite-Sized and Jargon-Free (Mostly) will be offered May 4, 2018, at the Courtyard by Marriott - Philadelphia Downtown. The workshop will assist college and university faculty, staff, and administrators in understanding that their institutions already possess all of the elements required to design and implement an institutional effectiveness system. As an intermediate-level workshop, members of the audience should include faculty, staff, and administrators with responsibilities in the areas of planning, institutional effectiveness, and accreditation.

For further details about any of these workshops, visit http://www.msche.org/events_calendar.asp.

Another Successful MSCHE Annual Conference

The 2017 MSCHE Annual Conference, held December 6 - 8 in Philadelphia, was another successful event for the Commission and its member institutions. More than 1300 people registered for the conference, making it one of the largest such gatherings in the Commission's 98-year history.



The four plenary sessions examined topics of significant interest to MSCHE institutions. Two of the sessions focused on the Commission's new accreditation standards and new accreditation processes and cycle.



Panelists in the opening plenary session discuss Lessons Learned from the Collaborative Implementation Project, the MSCHE effort to pilot the new accreditation standards.

A plenary session featuring Dr. Peter McPherson, President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, addressed *Accountability in a Changing Environment*. Dr. McPherson emphasized in his remarks that higher education must be accountable for student access, completion, and employment.



Peter McPherson

Walter Bumphus

The closing plenary on December 8 featured Dr. Walter Bumphus, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Bumphus discussed *Higher Education and the Trump Administration*, focusing on the current higher education landscape and the proposed PROSPER (Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform) Act. Dr. Bumphus also discussed the federal government’s efforts to deregulate higher education as well as initiatives to expand apprenticeship programs involving community colleges and local industries.

During the conference the Commission’s senior leadership team held a special meeting with the more than 150 attendees from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to discuss the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on the 50 Caribbean institutions accredited by MSCHE.



Dr. Elizabeth Sibolski, MSCHE President, speaks with representatives of Caribbean institutions.

In addition to the plenary sessions, there were more than 32 concurrent sessions on a variety of topics plus numerous networking opportunities in the Exhibit Hall. The Commission extends its special thanks to event sponsor ETS and to the 27 participating exhibitors. Their financial support helped make the conference possible.



2017 Annual Conference Exhibit Hall

Mark your calendar for the 2018 MSCHE Annual Conference, scheduled for November 28-30 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC.

Welcome to New Commissioners

Seven new MSCHE Commissioners began their three-year terms on January 1, following their election last Fall by member institutions. The large number of new Commissioners is due to the expiration of the terms of several long-serving Commissioners as well as the recent expansion of the Commission from 26 to 29 members.

The newly elected Commissioners are Dr. Robert Clark, Assistant to the President for Planning, Research, Institutional Effectiveness, and Grants, at Cumberland County College in Vineland, NJ; Dr. Sue Henderson, President of New Jersey City University in Jersey City, NJ; Dr. M. Karen Jogan, Professor of Spanish at Albright College in Reading, PA; Dr. Valerie D. Lehr, Professor of Gender Studies at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY; Mr. Richard J. Pinkowski, Vice President for Business/Finance, at Hilbert College in Hamburg, NY; Ms. Barbara Pratt, Vice President for Finance and Operations/Chief Financial Officer, at Warren County Community College in Washington, NJ; and Dr. Scott Schaeffer, Professor of Biology at Harford Community College in Bel Air, MD.

Re-elected to their second three-year terms as Commissioners were Dr. John Ettling, President of SUNY College at Plattsburgh; Mr. David Hollowell, Public Member; and Dr. Alan Mathios, Dean of Human Ecology at Cornell University.



Clark Henderson Jogan Lehr Pinkowski Pratt Schaeffer

MSCHE Adds New Staff

MSCHE has welcomed a new Vice President. Dr. Hilda Colon Plumey, who joined the staff on February 1.



Colon

Dr. Colon brings to MSCHE a wealth of higher education experience. From 1970 through 2009 she was a member of the faculty in the Department of Biology at the University of Puerto Rico – Humacao. She also served as Chancellor of UPR – Humacao from 2002 through 2009. In 2010 she joined the staff of the Ana G. Mendez University System in Puerto Rico, serving as Special Assistant to the System President (2010-2012) and later as Associate Vice President of the system (2012-2017). From 2013 through 2017 she also served as Co-Principal Investigator and Education and Public Outreach Deputy Director of Puerto Rico’s Arecibo Observatory. In addition, Dr. Colon has served as an evaluation team member and team chair on behalf of MSCHE

Dr. Colon will serve as liaison to a variety of institutions throughout the Middle States region. Those institutions will be informed of their new liaison in the very near future.

MSCHE has added two new members to its Research unit.

Douglas MacDonald joined the staff in October 2017 as Senior Analytics Specialist. He is responsible for the creation of databases, algorithms, and statistical models; the development of dashboards, reports, charts, graphs, and tables to display the outcomes of analyses for use by MSCHE's internal and external stakeholders; and the use of system reports and analyses to identify potentially problematic data, make corrections, and determine their root causes. Prior to joining the Middle States team MacDonald was an Application Developer/Data Analyst in the Development and Alumni Relations Office at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a Master's degree in Experimental Psychology and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, both from Saint Joseph's University, and is currently working toward a Master's in Education, Quantitative Methods, at the University of Pennsylvania.



Douglas MacDonald Timothy Butler

Timothy Butler joined the MSCHE staff in July 2017 as Data Management Specialist. He earned his Associate degree in Liberal Arts/Humanities at Cumberland County College and later earned a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature at Rowan University. He began his higher education career at Cumberland County College as a test proctor. After four years in that role, he moved into the Institutional Research Office as a Research Associate, where he worked for two years.

MSCHE created its Research unit in early 2017 with the hiring of Dr. Alan Richman as Senior Director for Research.

Actions Taken by the Commission at the November 2017 Meeting

The Commission held its most recent meeting November 16 in Philadelphia. During the meeting, the Commission took 109 actions. The Commission reaffirmed the accreditation of 54 institutions, placed three institutions on warning and one institution on probation, and approved four complex substantive changes. In addition, Eastern International College in Jersey City, NJ, was granted Candidate for Accreditation status.

For complete details on the November Commission meeting, click on http://www.msche.org/institutions_recentactions_view.asp?dteStart=10/31/2017&dteEnd=11/16/2017&idCommitteeType=0&txtMeeting=Commission