



Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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www.msche.org

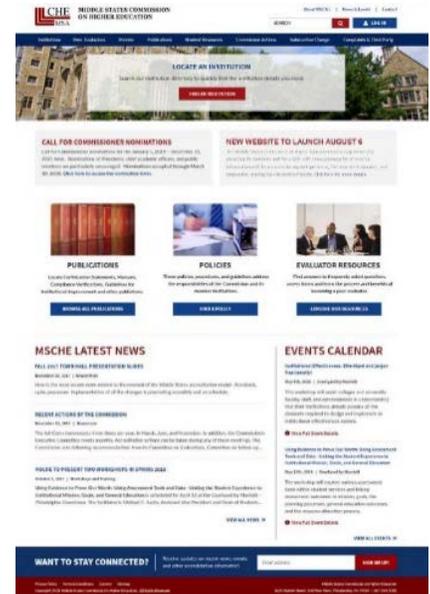
Spring 2018 Newsletter

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New Website Coming in August

MSCHE will take the wraps off a new website on August 6 that will introduce a **dynamic, responsive, and mobile friendly experience**. The new site will make content easier to find. With close integration of the members’ portal built on the Salesforce platform, visitors will find up-to-date information dynamically pulled from the data base. Check out a preview of the new site on the right.



New Website Preview

Middle States Earns Five-Year Renewal of Federal Recognition

MSCHE received official notification in May 2018 from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) that **renewed MSCHE’s federal recognition for five years**. The notice comes following recommendations from both the USDE staff and National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI).

“The renewal of Middle States’ recognition is due in part to what we are doing through our research department and their data collection and analysis,” said MSCHE President Dr. **Elizabeth H. Sibolski**. “Equally important in the consideration was our written response to the Department of Education and NACIQI that provided the necessary evidence of our work.”

Since 1952, MSCHE has been listed as a nationally recognized accrediting agency. Federally recognized agencies, who serve as gatekeepers to Title IV funds, must apply for re-recognition at least every five years. For more information on accreditation, visit <https://www.ed.gov/accreditation>.

Attention Peer Evaluators: New Volunteer Portal Coming in August

MSCHE will be **launching a new Peer Evaluator/Volunteer portal on August 6, 2018**. Because we value your participation and don’t want to lose your information, we will need you to update your information in the new system.

If you are still interested in maintaining your status as a peer evaluator, you will need to resubmit your Evaluator Data Form (EDF) in our new portal. Accurate information in the EDF is essential to best position you for success on review teams. Keep an eye out for more information. (continues on page 2)

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Peer Evaluators are the backbone of the MSCHE peer review process, and we thank all of those who participate for your continued dedication to MSCHE and the peer review process.

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Update on Annual Institutional Update

The Annual Institutional Update (AIU) will have an updated Dictionary and FAQ available on msche.org in mid-June. Since the release of the dictionaries in February, we have been receiving great questions and feedback. Based on these responses, we are adjusting some language in the dictionaries to improve clarity. Also, we have many additions to our AIU FAQ. Look for these updates ... and remember the **AIU opens August 27**.

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Recent MSCHE Presentations

Senior Vice President for Accreditation Relations Dr. **Robert A. Schneider** and Assistant Director for Substantive Change Ms. **Carmella Morrison** joined Vice President for Legal Affairs and Chief of Staff Dr. **Heather F. Perfetti, J.D.**, on April 17 for a presentation to SUNY about substantive change, specifically with regard to additional locations, as well as an overview of the renewed accreditation cycle. Dr. Perfetti also presented to the National Association of Branch Campus Administrators at Temple's location in Harrisburg on April 13, and on June 5, along with Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), at the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) Conference.

Senior Director for Research Dr. **W. Allen Richman** visited the Assessment Network of New York (ANNY) Annual Conference on April 20 to present Moving Beyond the Heart with Healthy Assessment; the Maryland Association for Institutional Research (MdAIR) on April 27 for a session on The Annual Institutional Update (AIU); and was at the New Jersey Association for Institutional Research (NJAIR) with Senior Analytics Specialist Mr. **Doug MacDonald** on May 11 for a dive into MSCHE Research.

On April 6, Senior Director for Information Systems Mr. **Patrick Esmonde** was among a panel that presented at the Salesforce.org Higher Ed Summit 2018 on The Future of Salesforce: Accreditation Management.



PASSHE visit on May 15

MSCHE representatives presented to the 14 university Presidents of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) as well as senior leadership from each of the universities and representatives of the PASSHE Chancellor's Office on May 15. Attending on behalf of MSCHE were President Dr. **Elizabeth H. Sibolski**, Senior Vice President for Operations Dr. **Andrea A. Lex**, Senior Vice President for Accreditation Relations Dr. **Robert A. Schneider**, Vice President for Legal Affairs and Chief of Staff Dr. **Heather F. Perfetti, J.D.**, Senior Director for Research Dr. **W. Allen Richman**, and Director for Communications and Public Relations Mr. **Brian Kirschner**.

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Events



Save The Date – 2018 Annual Conference

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the **Annual Conference scheduled for November 28-30, 2018, at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel**. Additional information regarding this conference (including a complete preliminary program along with registration and hotel information) will be available in late August 2018.

Missed the Spring Town Hall?

The MSCHE website contains valuable information that was presented at the spring Town Hall including the slide decks on preparing for the Annual Institutional Update and the Mid-Point Peer Review. If you are asking what happened to the Periodic Review Report (PRR), then you need to visit msche.org in the News Links section of the front page to learn more about the new process.

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New Staff at MSCHE



MSCHE welcomed Mr. **Brian C. Kirschner** to the role of Director for Communications and Public Relations in April 2018. Mr. Kirschner replaces Mr. **Richard J. Pokrass** who retired in February 2018 after nine years with Middle States. Mr. Kirschner will work closely with senior leadership and the Commission to oversee development of internal and external communications tactics and strategies while managing the MSCHE website and providing support for events.

He joins MSCHE with more than 22 years of public relations and marketing experience in higher education and the sports/entertainment industries most recently at University of the Sciences (2006-2018) where he served as Director of Communications. Prior to his role at USciences, Mr. Kirschner was in the front office of the Philadelphia 76ers for six years (2000-2006) finishing as Director of Communications, and he was Sports Information Director at Temple University (1996-2000). He holds a Master of Education from Temple and a Bachelor of Arts from Brandeis University.

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Training Position Update

Interviews are currently underway for the MSCHE Director for Volunteer Training and Development. The successful candidate will fill the vital role of managing the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of the Commission's volunteer training and development plan in support of the MSCHE Strategic Plan and assessed member needs. This includes developing an annual suite of training and development opportunities for the membership.

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Actions Taken by the Commission at the March 2018 Meeting and the April 2018 Substantive Change Meeting

The Commission's most recent meeting was held on March 15 in Philadelphia. The Commission took 61 actions, including reaffirmation of accreditation and granting candidacy status. For complete details on the March meeting, click on <https://go.msche.org/Actions-2018-03-15>. Actions taken at the June Commission meeting will be posted on [msche.org](https://go.msche.org) soon after the meeting. In addition, actions taken at the Commission's Executive Committee for Substantive Change on April 30 can be found at <http://go.msche.org/Actions-2018-04-30>.

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