

From the President – December 2013

Continued

A major piece of business for Commissioners at the Annual Meeting will be election of Board members. This year there are five seats on the Board up for election. There is one seat each for a Commissioner from a sponsor organization and from a CoA. There is also a seat for a Commissioner from The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. ASAHP provides representation for schools with health professions programs at the baccalaureate and higher level. Board seats will also become vacant for a recent graduate and a public member. Please consider your personal interest in or whether you know someone qualified for making a contribution to the leadership of CAAHEP. Watch for the official call for nominations.

The implementation of the ACA is unlikely to have any direct effect on programmatic accreditation, but it will clearly impact some or all health professions served by CAAHEP in both a financial and regulatory manner. Of greater concern is what impact reauthorization of the HEA may have. Past iterations of the HEA have empowered institutional accreditors as gatekeepers for federally funded financial support. Preliminary Congressional hearings on higher education have focused on optimizing the value received for taxpayer dollars spent on education and there have been both critics and advocates for the role of accreditors. Specialized and programmatic accreditors have not traditionally participated in this gatekeeper function, but there is clearly Congressional interest in how this focused accreditation can play a role in defining and measuring outcomes. If and when HEA will be reauthorized is as much an unknown as what it will contain, but it is certain higher education is being driven toward innovation in order to demonstrate value. Institutional and programmatic accreditors alike will need to be prepared to adapt in order to sustain relevance.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank CAAHEP's Commissioners and the organizations they represent for continued support.