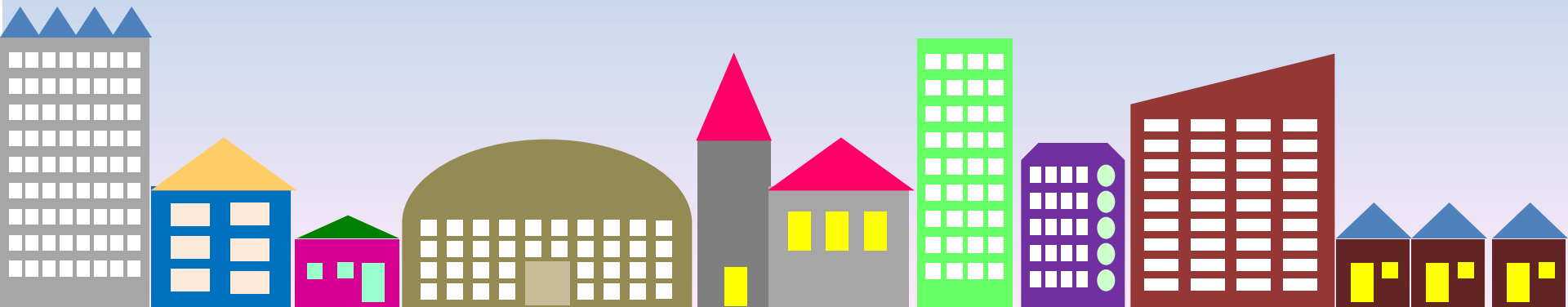




**State of the Art in Specialized
and Professional Accreditation
in the United States
May 2014**

Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors





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Laura Rasar King, MPH, MCHES

**Chair, Board of Directors, Association of Specialized and
Professional Accreditors**

Executive Director, Council on Education for Public Health

- Collaborative forum and collective voice for organizations that assure the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools
 - 60 members; 35 health related; 14 serve as institutional accreditors
 - Twice yearly meetings: business + professional development
-

- Member Services

- Tracks developments in and provides input on higher education legislation and regulation as it relates to accreditation issues
 - Responds to calls for comment
 - Participates in stakeholder meetings
 - Negotiated rulemaking participation
- Educates legislators and regulators about the role and function of specialized accreditors
 - Senate testimony
 - Visits to Congressional representatives
- Compensation Survey
- Access to E-list of accreditation directors
- Members database and resources
- Professional Development for members

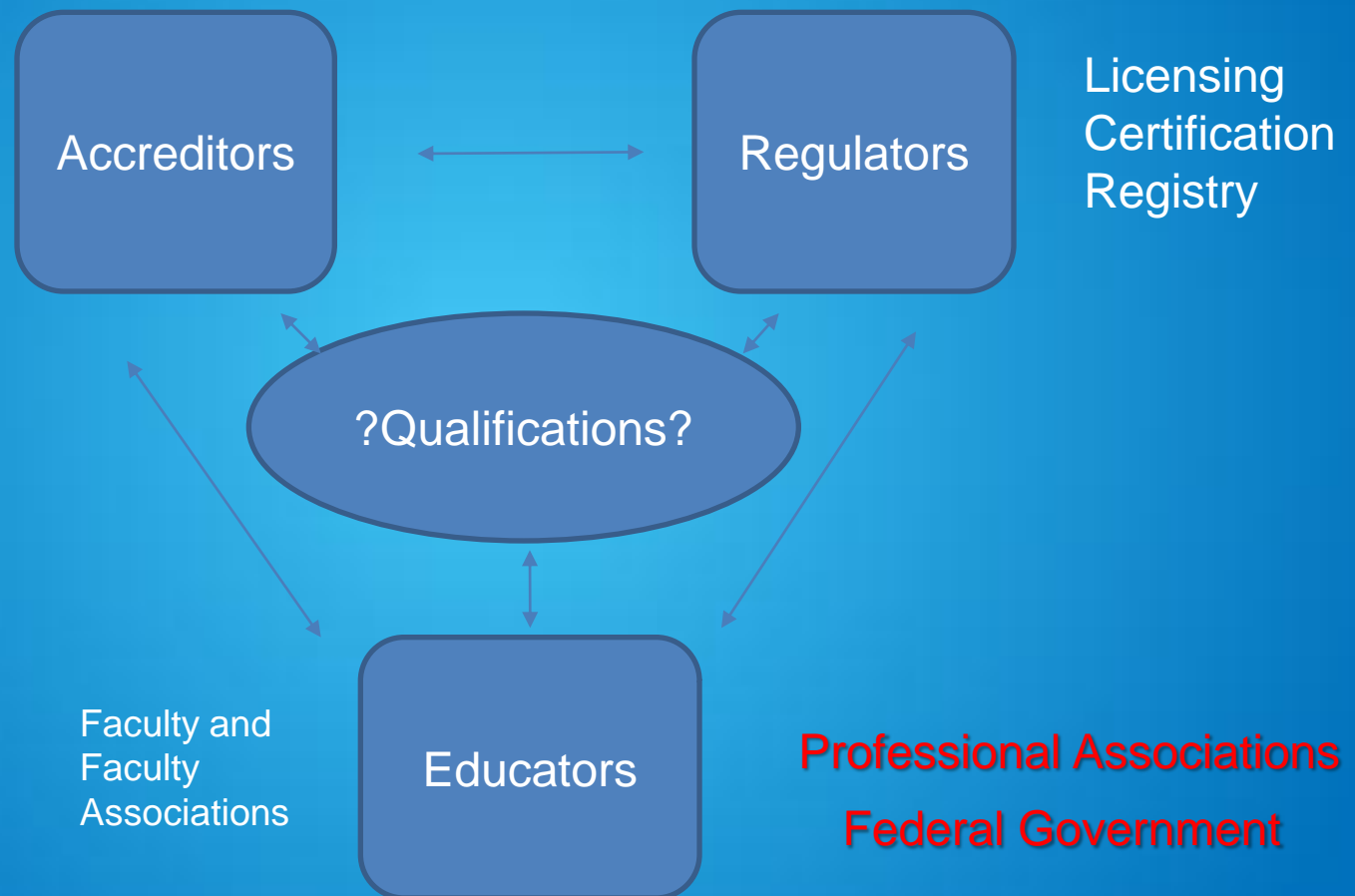
- Speakers on Topics of Importance
 - Innovation in higher education delivery and assessment
 - Quality improvement processes for accreditors
 - How to provide exceptional support and training for programs in the accreditation process
 - Risk Management Issues
 - Legal issues surrounding denial of accreditation
 - Insurance coverage
 - Due process and appeals
 - Public information – balancing risks with liability

Triad

- Federal Government
 - administrative and fiscal integrity of funding programs (student aid = \$1 trillion)
- States
 - authorize institutions to operate, with varying degrees of intrusion/requirements
- Accreditors
 - acceptable levels of quality; emphasis on self-evaluation and peer review; quality improvement

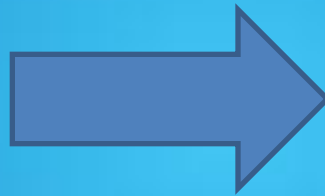
- Types of accreditation
 - Programmatic
 - National institutional
 - Regional institutional
- Recognition
 - USDE – federal link is necessary (VA, research, student loans)
 - CHEA – voluntary
 - Some accreditors recognized by both, some by one or the other, some by neither - not eligible or not interested
 - Promotes accountability and quality improvement

Many opinions on desired qualifications...



Issues Creating Tension

- High cost of HE
- For profit education
- Changing delivery of higher education
 - Multiple sites
 - Online learning
 - Competency based education
 - Prior learning
- Calls for a new system of QA / accreditation



Reauthorization of
the Higher
Education
Opportunities Act



To learn more about ASPA:
www.aspa-usa.org

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