Sunday, April 26

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.   **NASASPS Board and Committee Meetings**

3:00 – 7:00 p.m.   **Conference Registration**

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.   **First Time Attendee Reception**

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.   **Opening Reception**

Monday, April 27

8:00 a.m. – Noon   **Registration**

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.   **Opening Remarks & Conference Welcome**

9:15 – 10:30 a.m.   **Opening Keynote**
David A. Tandberg, Ph.D., Vice President for Policy Research and Strategic Initiatives for SHEEO will present research and updates on state authorization to attendees.

11:00 a.m. – Noon   **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education**
Diversity, equity and inclusion is an emerging topic in the higher education landscape. When we look at enrollment patterns of private occupational schools, it appears we may be serving more underrepresented populations within higher education. What does this signal? What lessons should we learn, and what should we be teaching others in higher education? What can regulators, institutions and accreditors do to create and implement best practices related to diversity, equity and inclusion? Join us for a discussion on the latest practices and methodologies.

Noon – 1:30 p.m.   **Welcome Luncheon**
Amanda Winters from the National Governors Association will share information on initiatives on state authorization mapping and quality assurance.

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	**Human Trafficking**

Trafficking is officially defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of vulnerability or of a position of power for the purpose of exploitation. Human trafficking affects every country of the world, as countries of origin, transit or destination - or even a combination of all. The Americas are prominent both as the origin and destination of victims of human trafficking. The magnitude of the trafficking problem - that is, the number of victims - is hotly debated as there is no methodologically sound estimate available. The U.S. Justice Department estimates that 35,500–170,500 people enter illegally into the country every year. Those being trafficked include young children, teenagers, men and women, as well as domestic citizens or foreign nationals. The U.S. is working to eliminate human trafficking in the U.S. and worldwide. Each year, the Department of State releases data compiled on the state of human trafficking in many countries, including the U.S., in accordance with the Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000's standards. It also releases data on trafficking cases under federal prosecution and estimates of those trafficked; however, the report also cautions that the data is not a comprehensive representation of the total number of individuals trafficked, due to both the lack of cohesion between many states and agencies battling human trafficking and the inability to account for undiscovered victims.

The presentation will provide regional perspectives on:

- Misconceptions about human trafficking
- Indicators of human trafficking
- Vulnerable populations to trafficking and methods of recruitment
- The necessity for coordination between law enforcement, community service providers and regulatory agencies to identify victims of trafficking and provide holistic assistance to survivors
- Promising practices in combatting human trafficking

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	**Ask a State or Accreditor** Q&A session providing you the opportunity to talk directly to a state or accreditor representative. Representatives from states and accreditors will be set up around the room waiting to answer all (well most) of your questions.
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.	**NASASPS Business Meeting – open to all member levels**

Tuesday, April 28

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	**Breakfast Sessions:**

1. **Regulator, Accreditor and U.S. Department of Education Breakfast Meeting**

2. **Attendee Networking Breakfast**

3. **WCET/State Authorization Network (SAN) Member Breakfast Meeting – Federal Regulation Update**

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	**Concurrent Sessions:**

1. **Tools and Tips for On-Site Reviews and Maintaining Approvals**
   This presentation will provide an overview of tools used by a non-SARA institution to maintain numerous regulatory approvals. In addition, the presentation will provide tips from both an institution and regulator perspective on how to prepare for and conduct an on-site regulatory review. Regulators have limited time to spend conducting on-site reviews and the process for conducting those reviews will vary based on factors such as the type of site, learning modality, and program inventory. This session will provide best practices for tailoring regulatory reviews based on the institutional profile in order to effectively utilize the time spent on-site.

2. **CECU Legislative and Regulatory Update**
   As Congress's work is stymied in anticipation of November's unpredictable elections, the Trump Administration forges ahead with its higher education policy agenda. This session will provide attendees relevant Federal legislative and regulatory developments impacting postsecondary career education schools. The presenter will

discuss updates regarding reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, as well as the U.S. Department of Education's continued work to reduce the regulatory impact on institutions through revising or eliminating burdensome rules, including those on accreditation, borrower defense, and state authorization. Attendees will leave better informed about the opportunities and challenges in effectively engaging policymakers and other stakeholders.

3. **A Playbook for Successful and Compliant Online Programs (SAN Session)**
    This combined session focuses on strategies for building a solid foundation for online programs. The first presenter will share resources and organizational strategies for addressing common distance education compliance issues, ranging from international enrollment procedures and state authorization to course-level challenges such as ensuring regular and substantive interaction. The second presenter will then share a data analysis from a study which highlights the importance of instructor presence in online courses to the success of nontraditional adult learners.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   **Concurrent Sessions:**

1. **Modernizing Student Outcomes Reporting**
    In an era of increased student outcomes accountability, traditional ways that higher education reports quality are not-consumer friendly, produce inordinate reporting lag times and allow poorly performing schools and programs to obscure their outcomes using reporting gimmicks. A lack of transparency increases the risks that consumers will enroll in low-quality schools. The Council on Integrity in Results Reporting (CIRR) is the nation's first implementation of an outcomes standard for how schools collect, report, and use independently audited student outcomes data for public accountability, marketing, and student enrollment. CIRR's reporting standard was formed first by comparing state reporting requirements, their consumer-protection deficiencies, and integrated these data to provide students and other stakeholders clear, concise, graduation and job placement information for schools every six months.

2. **State Agency Approach to Complaint Management & Resolution**
Many States have rules for program review that require institutions to provide students with information on how to report a complaint not resolved at the institution's level. In addition, state participation in SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement) which provides for consumer protection, and the Department of Education negotiated rule making on distance education that requires institutions participating in Title IV, Higher Education programs to document that there is a state complaint process in states they enroll students, make it critical for States to have a process for monitoring and managing complaints.

   Students often find state regulators are their "last resort" for support in addressing a variety of issues, some of which often fall outside of our jurisdiction to address. As a result, state regulators frequently find themselves struggling to conduct comprehensive investigations on complex issues with limited staff and resources.   We hope to provide an overview of how three States addressed these issues and in comparison to our processes, review the new Borrower Defense to Repayment procedure released with the new Final Regulations.

3. **Compliance Inspiring Innovation and Change**
Having a national presence means that there are many different sets of regulations that need to be followed to remain in compliance. Two universities have changed the way that they look at these regulatory requirements and used them to inspire change at their Institutions. With the use of new technologies, automation and innovative ideas, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has leveraged compliance requirements to support strategic decision-making and enhanced student services, changing how the Institution looks at compliance. The University of Louisville utilized advocacy, policymaking, and compliance strategies to elevate online learning and to make positive changes to the online student experience.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.   **Lunch on Your Own**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	**Concurrent Sessions**

1. **Where Do I Even Start? Tackling Professional Licensure and Distance Education Disclosure Requirements.**
   Institutions are facing an increasing amount of disclosure requirements from NC-SARA and at the federal and state level. Join us for a panel discussion to look at strategies for how institutions can comply with disclosure requirements related to professional licensure and distance education.

2. **Demystifying Postsecondary Transactions**
   This session will provide attendees with tools they can use to "demystify" proposed postsecondary transactions. The presenters will offer a framework for understanding and evaluating proposed mergers and acquisitions, and suggestions for targeted information requests. They will discuss the most common transaction structures, as well as select, complex proposals that have been more frequent in recent years (e.g., nonprofit conversions).

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	**General Session**

Multiple Perspective Analysis of School Closures
This session will focus on school closures from various perspectives; working to create a closure plan that works for the student/graduate, the practice of coordinating efforts to minimize student harm, and an examination of an institution's process to develop new programs to meet the needs of students and the community affected by a school closure.

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.	**NASASPS Annual Meeting**

Open to all Regular members of the association.

Wednesday, April 29

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	**Washington Potpourri: A Whirlwind Tour of the Legislative Landscape and the Department of Education Activities**

Can we expect any legislation from Congress in higher education? How likely will there be a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act? While there have been tensions between the Republicans and Democrats, there are a number of bipartisan areas of support, such as the desire to simplify the FAFSA, the need for accreditation revision, loan repayment

plans simplification, state authorization, and lifting the student unit record ban. What is happening on the regulatory front? What are the changes in accreditation, distance education, state authorization and other provisions? Will the Department make changes to the rules for areas that some believe should be made by Congress? Predictions will be offered as to what is likely to happen.

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.   **Perspectives on the Complaints Process from Start to Finish**
This session will take a detailed look at the complaints process from the institutional and state perspectives and discuss best practices in communication and opportunities for improvement.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   **NC-SARA: New happenings, thoughts for the future, and ideas from you!**
The National Council of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) provides a uniform compliance option for more than 2000 participating institutions nationwide in member states. Currently, 49 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been approved as NC-SARA member states. Participating SARA institutions may offer distance education activities, such as online learning and supervised field experiences in other SARA member states without additional authorization from the higher education agencies in those states. This panel discussion will cover NC-SARA updates to include data, the State Authorization Guide, NC-SARA website, professional licensure, and other related areas. The panel wants to encourage audience interaction and hopes to receive feedback regarding possible changes or enhancements member states and participating institutions would like to see to help ensure the best results for distance education students. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Lori Williams, NC-SARA President and CEO.

12:00 p.m.   **Conference Adjournment**