



**NASASPS Annual Conference**  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 24 – 27, 2022

## Final Program

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### Sunday, April 24

3:00 – 7:00 PM      **Conference Registration**  
5:00 – 5:45 PM      **New Attendee Reception**  
6:00 – 8:00 PM      **Opening Reception**

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### Monday, April 25

8:00 AM – Noon      **Registration**  
9:00 – 9:15 AM      **President's Welcome**  
9:15 – 10:45 AM      **Keynote Panel: Human Trafficking**

**Lorna Candler** - Chief Occupational Education Officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education, Division of Private Occupational Schools  
**Dr. Debra Persinger** - Executive Director, Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards  
**Matt Grady** - Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Justice, Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit  
**Pam Hamilton, LCSW** - Owner/Therapist, Hamilton Counseling & Consulting LLC  
**Dr. Ellie Bruecker** - Senior Research Associate, Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation  
**Abigail Seldin** - CEO & Founder, Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation

Human trafficking is pervasive in our world, our regions, and our states. The Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation's recent focus on this critical issue has generated action and coordinated resources to effectively communicate with one another and policymakers about how we can all do our part to address human trafficking in the Higher Education landscape. Grants to the Colorado State Department of Higher Education and Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards have allowed us to jointly develop an anti-trafficking toolkit for state regulators overseeing institutions that may be or become vulnerable marketplaces for traffickers. The purpose of this tool kit is to provide a user-friendly guide to identifying and taking action against human trafficking in higher education institutions

such as massage therapy, cosmetology, truck driving and other potential target schools. Our goal is to answer most pressing questions: *How do I identify if a school is engaged in trafficking? Do I have authority to act, and what do I do next? How do I support the victims, engage law enforcement, and otherwise build a task force to manage the various components trafficking presents?* Together we will expand awareness and best practices for state regulators as well as our sister agencies, stakeholders, and influential policymakers.

11:00 AM – Noon

### **Exhibitor Hour**

Noon – 1:30 PM

### **Welcome Lunch and State Updates Session**

Join us for lunch and a review of the results of the Spring 2022 State Regulator Updates survey.

1:45 – 2:30 PM

### **Overview of Post-Secondary Regulatory Framework**

**Aaron Lacey** - Partner & Chair, Higher Education Practice, Thompson Coburn LLP

In preparation for this year's regulatory and legislative update, Aaron Lacey will refresh us on the relationships among our federal legislators, regulators, and courts, and how they work together to create our federal postsecondary regulatory framework. He will discuss the role of HEA reauthorization and negotiated rulemaking, and review the current rulemaking calendar, including a look at likely activity through the end of the year. At the conclusion of this session, participants will be ready to join Nicholas Kent for a dive into the substantive issues currently under discussion in Washington, DC.

2:45 – 3:30 PM

### **Washington Legislative and Regulatory Update**

**Nicholas Kent** - Senior Vice President of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Career Education Colleges and Universities

With Democrats controlling Congress and the White House for the first time in nearly a decade, postsecondary education is primed for major disruption. This session will provide relevant Federal legislative and regulatory developments impacting private postsecondary education. The presenter, a higher education policy specialist, will discuss updates regarding reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and other legislative initiatives. This session will also explore the U.S. Department of Education's ambitious rulemaking agenda on topics such as gainful employment, borrower defense to repayment, and Title IX. Participants will leave better informed about the opportunities and challenges in engaging policymakers and other stakeholders to effect change at the highest levels of government.

3:30 – 4:00 PM

### **Joint Q&A Session**

4:15 – 5:00 PM

### **Concurrent Meetings:**

#### **1. NASASPS Business Meeting**

Open to all member levels

#### **2. SAN Member Meeting**

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**Tuesday, April 26**

8:00 – 9:15 AM

**Breakfast Sessions:**

- 1. Regulator Breakfast**
- 2. Attendee Networking Breakfast**
- 3. WCET/State Authorization Network (SAN) Member Breakfast**

9:30 – 10:15 AM

**Concurrent Sessions:**

**1. Improving the Initial Authorization Process: Best Practices from Georgia**

**Michael Kaiser** - Senior Regulatory Specialist and Initial Applicant Coordinator, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

**James Cheek** - Senior Regulatory Specialist and Financial Assessment Coordinator, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

**Hannah Meeks** - Regulatory Specialist, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

**Annelise Cantrell** - Contract Regulatory Specialist, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

In recent years the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC) has committed to improving our Initial Authorization process, with an emphasis on unaccredited institutions. Our efforts include developing extensive application resources for schools, improving agency communications, role specialization efforts, and data tracking. Featuring four new NASASPS presenters from our staff, the presentation will outline GNPEC's Initial Authorization process, the changes we have implemented to improve it, challenges and obstacles faced, and the results of those changes interventions.

**2. Realigning Professional Licensure within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Kenneth M. Heard, III** - Director, Department of State Authorization, University of Mississippi Medical Center

**Jennifer Lewis** - Associate Director of Compliance and Ethics, University of Southern Mississippi

**Anne Klingen** - Director of Online Design & eLearning, University of Mississippi

States are actively working to reduce or eliminate state-specific licensing. State licensing boards are unable to answer questions about whether educational programs meet their standards and may post conflicting information on their websites. Meanwhile, for some professions national credentialing prevails while for others professional licensure reciprocity agreements are expanding. This move toward acceptance of national licensing standards conflicts with existing standards that require state specific licensing information. By examining the current challenges and evolving landscape, we can gain insight into how best to truly provide the underlying transparency in terms of professional licensure that serves the public good.

10:30 – 11:15 AM

## **Concurrent Sessions**

### **1. What's in a job title? New data forges new career connections in WA state**

**Marina Parr** - Communications Director, Washington Workforce Board

Data that makes a difference: The case for collecting occupational data. Workers need to be able to retool rapidly as we emerge from the pandemic. But which education programs will get them where they need to go? Starting in 2022, Washington employers are required to provide job title information, along with hours worked and wages. Using this data, Washington's Workforce Board will be able to show students and families, as well as taxpayers and policymakers, whether graduates actually landed jobs in the career for which they trained. WA is just the third state to collect this data directly from employers.

### **2. Lessons Learned: Best Practices for Establishing an International Distance Education Research Process**

**Cleston Murray** - Manager of Compliance and Market Research, The University of Arkansas

**Patty Milner, PhD** - Assistant Vice Provost for Student Outreach and Innovation, University of Arkansas | Global Campus

As institutions begin reaching broader audiences online, state authorization professionals are often being asked to address international distance education compliance questions as well. At the University of Arkansas, we have utilized our best practices for state authorization as a guideline for our research for international situations, alongside an iterative process as we learn more and more. As with state authorization, there are specifics about each country to evaluate. From Digital Service Taxes to Digital Nomad Visas, we will discuss our process and the best practices we have developed to bolster our research spanning international students to international employment.

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

## **FTC, DOE, Marketing and Recruiting**

**Aaron Lacey** - Partner & Chair, Higher Education Practice, Thompson Coburn LLP

**John Carreon** - General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer, Concorde Career Colleges

Join John Carreon and Aaron Lacey for a discussion regarding recent efforts by the Federal government to enhance the oversight of proprietary school's marketing and recruiting activities, including the FTC's October Press Release announcing a crackdown on marketing activity by proprietary institutions, proposals from the Department to target "aggressive recruiting" tactics, and the revival of the Department's enforcement unit. John and Aaron will also discuss recent efforts by schools to review their marketing and recruiting practices in anticipation of this increased scrutiny.

12:15 – 1:45 PM

## **Lunch on your own**

1:45 – 2:45 PM

## **Working with OPMs: an Update for State Regulators**

**Gregory Ferenbach** - Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, 2U, Inc.

**Phil Hill** - Founder, PhilOnEdTech.com

**David Tandberg** - SVP of Policy Research, SHEEO

**David M Smith, PhD** - Associate Provost for Online Learning and Professor of Economics, Pepperdine University

What are OPM's anyway, how are they changing, and how can state regulators work with them?

Join one of the top, independent ed tech observers, a policy leader at SHEEO, an executive and attorney at 2U, Inc., and a leading educator at Pepperdine University as they bring their respective perspectives to this important topic of interest to all state regulators.

Topics they will cover include:

1. What is an OPM anyway? What do they do, and what don't they do?
2. How do they interact with state regulators?
3. What is going on in the rapidly changing world of digital partnerships and how is the "old" OPM business model evolving (e.g., 2U/edX; Coursera IPO; for-profit conversions etc.)?
4. How are OPM's currently regulated, directly or indirectly?
5. What changes might be on the table at the federal level, and how might this impact states and accreditors?

3:15 – 4:15 PM

## **The Intersection of State Authorization and Accreditation**

**Dr. Lori Williams** - CEO, NC-SARA

**Karen Marcinski** - Director of Commission Affairs, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC)

**Dr. Lisa Beatty** - Executive Director, ABHE Commission on Accreditation

**India Y. Tips** - Executive Director, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)

**Beth Hepler** - Senior Accreditation Coordinator, Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET)

**Betsy Talbot** - *Manager of Institutional Registration & Licensing, Minnesota Office of Higher Education*

**Dr. Kevin Sighler** - *Director of Substantive Change, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSOC)*

**Zach Waymer** - *Government Affairs Officer, Higher Learning Commission*

NASASPS welcomes four different institutional accreditors to a panel that explores how accreditors incorporate state authorization requirements by exploring criteria of accreditation, the process for referring student complaints, or recommendations to join the national reciprocity agreement administered through NC-SARA. In addition, Lori Williams, the President of NC-SARA, will join to discuss the benefits of participating in the national reciprocity agreement administered through SARA and how participation can meet an institution's state authorization requirements.

4:20 – 5:00 PM

## **Concurrent Meetings:**

### **1. NASASPS Annual Meeting**

Open to all Regular Members of NASASPS

### **2. SAN Member Meeting**

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**Wednesday, April 27**

7:45 – 8:45 AM

**All Attendee Breakfast**



Sponsored by

**National Council for  
State Authorization  
Reciprocity Agreements**

8:45 – 9:45 AM

**Equity Essentials for Leaders in Higher Education**

**Dr. Tanika Byrd** - Co-Founder, Bloom Collaborative and Professor of Communication Studies, Cosumnes River College

Leaders in all areas of higher education must seek to create change that results in equitable outcomes for specific under-resourced groups. To achieve these results and avoid perpetuating the status quo or causing additional harm, leaders must possess and be willing to develop essential knowledge and skills. Dr. Byrd will outline these essentials and offer strategies for developing as an equity leader.

10:00 – 10:45 AM

**Licensure Disclosures and the Need for Collaboration Among Compacts, State Boards, and Accreditors**

**Dr. Matthew Smith** - Director of Accreditation, George Mason University

**Dr. Ellen Drogin Rodgers** - Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University

**Emily Woods** - Senior Distance Learning Compliance Coordinator, University of Kentucky

Higher education institutions (IHEs) must disclose whether or not their licensure-preparation programs meet a state's educational requirements or disclose the absence of such determinations. Complexities lead to the IHEs' inability to provide thorough, accurate assessments. IHEs participating in state authorization reciprocity agreements (SARA) are bound by policies prohibiting the absence of a determination without demonstrating "all reasonable effort." Thus, IHEs each "invent the wheel" with little assistance from professional and state licensing agencies/boards, interstate compacts, and programmatic accreditors. These entities are positioned to collaborate in aligning pre-licensure educational requirements, recognizing accredited programs, and simplifying disclosure determinations, for student consumer protection and professional success upon graduation. This session emphasizes the need for regulators/accreditors to support compacts and for legislation ensuring uniformity in pre-licensure educational requirements.

11:00 AM – Noon

**Approving Agencies, Authorization Agencies – State and Federal Implications**

**Cheryl Dowd** - Senior Director, Policy Innovations, WCET - WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies

**Cathie "Cam" Maeyaert** - Director of Private Postsecondary Institutions, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**Torrence Joseph** - Educational Program Consultant, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, State Approving Agency

**Russ Poulin** - Executive Director, WCET - WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies

Our panel will discuss the differences and similarities of two state agencies that approve higher education programs and institutions for the purposes of student consumer protection. Compare and contrast the roles of the State higher education agencies that provide state institutional approval and the VA's State Approving Agencies as we discuss the impact of their approvals and purposes for U.S. Department of Education for Title IV aid and for the VA for GI Bill benefits.

Noon

**Conference Adjournment**

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