

NASASPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dallas Texas | April 19-22, 2026



SUNDAY, APRIL 19

3:00 - 7:00 PM **REGISTRATION OPEN**

5:00 - 6:00 PM **NEW MEMBER / ATTENDEE NETWORKING**

New members and first-time attendees are invited to mix and mingle in a casual setting. Meet with Board Members and learn more about NASASPS, how to get the most of conference, and resources available

6:00 - 7:00 PM **WELCOME RECEPTION**

Join us for a warm welcome to Dallas!

Sponsored by
DuaneMorris®

7:00 - 10:00 PM **NASASPS HOSPITALITY SUITE**

Join fellow attendees for informal networking in the NASASPS Hospitality Suite.

Sponsored by
 **CYANNA®**

MONDAY, APRIL 20

7:30 - 8:30 AM **BREAKFAST**

8:30 - 8:45 AM **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND HOST STATE WELCOME**

8:45 - 9:45 AM **THE FEDERAL REGULATORY OUTLOOK FOR 2026**

*Aaron D. Lacey | Thompson Coburn LLP
Katie Wendel | Thompson Coburn LLP*

Aaron Lacey and Katie Wendel, senior members of Thompson Coburn's Higher Education practice, will discuss the status of the U.S. Department of Education, including leadership and staffing changes at the agency, anticipated policy changes, and enforcement trends. They also will discuss the status of the new regulations coming out of the negotiated rulemaking process, with firsthand experience from Aaron, who served as a negotiator this past winter. They will focus on issues that are expected to be of particular interest to state regulators.

10:00 - 11:00 AM **WORKFORCE PELL IS COMING: UNDERSTANDING THE FINAL REGULATIONS AND PREPARING FOR JULY 1, 2026**

*Patrick Lane | Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
Lynette Kuhn | Pennsylvania Department of Education
Moderator: Heather DeLange | Colorado Division of Private Occupational Schools*

The creation of the Workforce Pell Grant program marks one of the most significant shifts in federal student aid policy in decades, expanding Pell eligibility to short-term, workforce-aligned programs for the first time. Following months of intensive discussion, the U.S. Department of Education's AHEAD negotiated rulemaking committee reached consensus on the regulatory framework that will govern program approval, accountability metrics, and state and institutional responsibilities. This session provides an overview of the negotiated rulemaking outcomes and explores how states and institutions across the country are preparing for implementation ahead of the July 1, 2026 effective date.

NASASPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dallas Texas | April 19-22, 2026



MONDAY, APRIL 20

11:15 - 12:30PM STATE UPDATES: LATEST NEWS & HOT TOPICS

Moderator: Dr. Kim Verneuille | MS Commission on Proprietary Schools & College Registration (CPSCR)

NASASPS will present a summary of the responses to the Spring 2026 State Updates Survey, including hot topics and upcoming changes from the states. State regulators will give brief reports on new or pending changes to their state regulations or processes and respond to questions as time allows.

12:30 - 1:30 PM WELCOME LUNCH

Sponsored by **EDvera**[®]

1:45 - 2:45 PM A NEW ERA OF OVERSIGHT: HOW THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IS USING GEMINI AI TO STREAMLINE STATUTORY COMPLIANCE

*Kevin J. LaMountain | Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education
Jacqueline Rome | Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education*

The Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education is leveraging the Gemini AI platform to address the challenge of ensuring comprehensive and accurate statutory compliance amid a rising volume of applications. This presentation details how Gemini is being utilized to streamline oversight and enhance operational efficiency. Specific applications include automating checklist verification for renewal documents and performing dynamic data consistency checks. Crucially, the AI is trained on all relevant Arizona Revised Statutes and Administrative Code, allowing it to rapidly cross-reference submitted school policies and enrollment agreements to guarantee the inclusion of mandatory disclosures (e.g., refund policies and tuition schedules). The integration of Gemini marks a significant step toward smarter, more effective regulatory oversight.

CONCURRENT CDL TRAINING – WHAT STATE REGULATORS SHOULD CONSIDER

3:00 - 4:00 PM *Andrew Poliakoff | Commercial Vehicle Training Association (CVTA)
Crystal Puderbaugh | Kansas Board of Regents
FMCSA Representative*

An open conversation between state regulators and CVTA about the CDL sector, training needs, and state authorization.

SAN: CONNECTING THE DOTS: INTEGRATING STATE AUTHORIZATION & LICENSURE RESEARCH, CRM SYSTEMS, AND INSTITUTIONAL WORKFLOWS

*Carly Devenburgh | University of Kentucky Distance Learning
Blazan Mijatovic | University of Kentucky Distance Learning*

Managing professional licensure and state authorization data is challenging as requirements vary across states and change over time. To ensure structure and consistency, the University of Kentucky's Distance Learning Compliance team developed a research manual and customized software workflows to streamline state authorization and licensure research, documentation, and communication across multiple colleges. The research manual incorporates tools designed and implemented to create a cohesive and repeatable workflow that supports collaboration among compliance staff, administrators, and academic programs. Participants will gain practical ideas on how to integrate state authorization and licensure research processes and improve efficiency at their own institutions.

NASASPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dallas Texas | April 19-22, 2026



MONDAY, APRIL 20

CONCURRENT NASASPS BUSINESS MEETING

4:15 - 5:00 PM Open to all NASASPS member levels.

SAN SPECIAL PRESENTATION: A NEW (NON-CREDIT) CAN OF WORMS: STRATEGIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ADDRESSING SARA'S NEW POLICY FOR NON-CREDIT PROGRAMS

Amy L White, MPP | University of Arkansas

The addition of non-credit courses to SARA's Policy 5.2 prompted the University of Arkansas's Compliance team to systematically examine our 103 non-credit offerings. What are the responsibilities of our third-party curriculum provider? What are the objectives to focus on when writing disclosures? Using U of A's experience as an example, this presentation provides insights and strategies, a suggested workflow, and things to consider when applying the new policy to your non-credit courses to both meet compliance and protect consumers.

6:00 - 10:00 PM NASASPS HOSPITALITY SUITE

Sponsored by



TUESDAY, APRIL 21

CONCURRENT REGULATOR BREAKFAST

8:00 - 9:30 AM

Nicholas Kent, Under Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education

SAN & ATTENDEE BREAKFAST

Regulator Breakfast Sponsor



CONCURRENT AUTHORIZATION UNDER PRESSURE: WHAT CLOSURE CASE STUDIES TEACH US ABOUT POLICY WEAKNESSES AND RECORD VULNERABILITY

9:45 - 10:45 AM

John Ware | Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools

Manda Koss | Verif-y

Kevin J. LaMountain | Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education

School closures expose the unintended consequences of policy gaps in authorization, data standards, and institutional oversight. Through real-world case studies, this session demonstrates how shifting regulatory frameworks and inconsistent record-protection policies lead to chaotic transcript transfers, incomplete student data, and long-term harm to students. We examine how policy decisions directly shape outcomes during closure events and offer a regulator-focused model for preventing future failures. Attendees will gain practical tools and strategies to modernize authorization requirements and ensure secure, accurate, and accessible student records during rapid institutional closures.

SAN: NURSING PROGRAMS: UNDERSTANDING LICENSING BOARD APPROVALS AND FACULTY LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR OUT-OF-STATE & ONLINE PROGRAMS

Kris Maul | Higher Education Licensure Pros LLC

Allen Clarkson | Higher Education Licensure Pros LLC

Offering nursing programs to students in other U.S. jurisdictions can trigger state nursing board approval or review, even for non-licensure and online programs. This workshop helps colleges and universities understand when and where approvals are required. Through real-world scenarios, participants will examine regulatory triggers such as clinical placements, distance education, faculty presence, and recruitment across state lines. We will compare selected state requirements, identify common compliance pitfalls, and discuss strategies for proactive planning.

NASASPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dallas Texas | April 19-22, 2026



TUESDAY, APRIL 21

11:00 - 12:00 PM

WHAT WE LEARNED AT NASASPS: TOOLS, TIPS, AND TAKEAWAYS FOR REGULATORS AND INSTITUTIONS

Sean Seepersad | Connecticut Office of Higher Education

Dr. Kim Verneuille | MS Commission on Proprietary Schools & College Registration (CPSCR)

Effective oversight requires both strong regulation and informed institutions. This three-person panel brings together two state regulators and an institutional leader to share practical lessons drawn from NASASPS engagement and day-to-day experience. Presenters will discuss onboarding new schools, enrollment-based renewal standards, student compliance surveys, accreditation expectations, outcomes tracking, and digital records management. From the institutional perspective, the session will explore communication with regulators, navigating state authorization systems, understanding the regulatory triad, and managing SARA responsibilities. Attendees will gain concrete strategies to improve collaboration, streamline operations, and strengthen student protection.

12:00 - 1:30 PM

LUNCH - PROVIDED

1:00 - 1:30 PM

NON-REGULAR MEMBER LISTENING SESSION

Join the NASASPS Board of Directors for a listening session designed to gather feedback from our non-regulator members about their needs, priorities, and experiences as a NASASPS member. Your input will help shape future programs, resources, and services.

1:30 - 2:30 PM

REGULATORY PARTNERSHIPS: HOW SAAS AND STATE REGULATORS CAN SUPPORT SHARED OVERSIGHT

Rebecca Ryan | RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner

David Salgado | Texas Veterans Commission

This presentation will discuss the statutory approval requirements for schools utilizing GI Bill® funding with a specific focus on nonaccredited institutions. We will discuss the initial and continued approval process for State Approving Agencies as well as how our approvals overlap with and intersect with state regulatory requirements. We will share some of the common findings at these institutions as well as best practices for supporting schools, again with a special focus on smaller nonaccredited NCDs. Finally, we will share our process for identifying and conducting Risk Based Surveys with the goal of demonstrating how SAA and state regulatory bodies can inform and support each other's oversight responsibilities at the state level.

2:30 - 3:00 PM

PUPPY BREAK

Decompress with a cuddle!

Sponsored by

LIRN

NASASPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dallas Texas | April 19-22, 2026



TUESDAY, APRIL 21

CONCURRENT
3:00 - 4:00 PM

WHAT WOULD A DATA DRIVEN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

Patrick Lane | Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
Sam Loftin | Washington Student Achievement Council
Scott Brees | The Pew Charitable Trusts

Drawing from recent work by Robert Kelchen and others on using publicly available data to identify institutions at greater risk of closure, this session will begin by identifying noteworthy indicators, draw in other data on potential headwinds for higher education institutions, including a deep dive on projections on future demographics. Following this, a panel of state regulators will discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks to developing a data driven approach to supplement regulators' assessments of institutional health.

IMPROVING OVERSIGHT THROUGH INSIGHT: POLICY LESSONS FROM NEW LICENSURE COMPLIANCE DATA

Katheryn Kerensky | WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies
Sarah Cheverton | James Madison University

Regulators play a critical role in shaping the environment in which institutions carry out professional licensure compliance. This session shares new research revealing where workload originates, how institutions manage it, and how regulatory structures unintentionally create pressure points that affect student access. We'll highlight what regulators should understand about institutional capacity, variation in state licensure board requirements, and the impact of federal rules. These insights can help inform broader policy discussions about transparency, alignment, and student mobility.

CONCURRENT
4:15 - 5:00 PM

NASASPS ANNUAL MEETING

Open to NASASPS Regular members only

SAN MEETING

6:00 - 10:00 PM

NASASPS HOSPITALITY SUITE

Join fellow attendees for informal networking in the NASASPS Hospitality Suite.

Sponsored by



NASASPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dallas Texas | April 19-22, 2026



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

7:30 - 8:30 AM **BREAKFAST**

8:30 - 9:30 AM **ACCREDITOR PANEL**

Kirk Nooks | Council on Occupational Education

Michale McComis | Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC)

Kelly Costello | Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)

Matthew Melton | Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

This engaging session convenes esteemed experts and thought leaders in private postsecondary education to explore the significance and impact of accreditation in ensuring quality and accountability, particularly in light of the new administration's renewed focus on reforming the accreditation process. Our distinguished panelists, comprising experienced accreditation professionals, will share their expertise, experiences, and insights, providing attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the current accreditation landscape and potential future changes.

9:45 - 10:45 AM **ACCESSIBILITY IN PRACTICE: STATE OVERSIGHT, INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE, AND EMERGING EXPECTATIONS**

Krista LeBrun | Mississippi Community College Board

Christa Wilhite | Mississippi Community College Board

Erika Swain | University of Colorado

Kimberly Foore | West Virginia University

This session focuses on implementing the U.S. Department of Justice regulations that require state entities, including higher education agencies and public institutions, to meet web accessibility standards aligned with WCAG 2.1 AA. With the April 2026 compliance deadline approaching, the discussion centers on what agencies and institutions must be doing now through effective compliance management plans. Private institutions must also treat WCAG 2.1 AA as the practical legal standard to manage enforcement risk. We will share best practices, common challenges, and an honest conversation about how to get started if your agency or institution has not yet begun its web accessibility compliance work.

11:00 - 12:00 PM **FRESH EYES, SEASONED HANDS: BUILDING COLLABORATIVE OVERSIGHT BETWEEN STATES AND ACCREDITORS**

Heather DeLange | Colorado Division of Private Occupational Schools

George Pry | National Association for Academic Excellence

Joseph Hoey | National Association for Academic Excellence

Kevin J. LaMountain | Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education

Moderator: Daniel Sessions | National Association for Academic Excellence

This session will explore how an accrediting body can partner with State administrators to bring both innovation and continuity to quality assurance.

- Opportunities for co-developing best practices for evaluating nontraditional or evolving educational models.
- How States and accreditors can jointly innovate around data use, outcomes assessment, and continuous improvement.
- Gaining efficiencies for institutions and regulators through collaborative and complimentary, non-duplicative quality measures.
- Developing communication pathways that respect institutional autonomy while upholding accountability.

12:00 - 12:15 PM **CLOSING REMARKS**