



Charleston, South Carolina • April 7-10, 2024

NASASPS Annual Conference

Charleston, South Carolina
April 7 – April 10, 2024

Conference Program

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

3:00 - 6:00 pm

Registration

4:00 - 5:00 pm

New Member/Attendee Workshop

NASASPS Board of Directors

Join us for an exclusive New Member/Attendee Workshop during our April 2024 conference, designed to provide you with a comprehensive orientation to the world of private postsecondary education and the valuable resources offered by NASASPS.

Introduction to NASASPS: Gain a clear understanding of the mission, vision, and goals of NASASPS, and learn how the association supports state administrators and supervisors in overseeing private postsecondary institutions.

Navigating the Conference: Get insider tips on how to navigate the conference schedule, choose sessions that align with your interests, and maximize networking opportunities with fellow attendees and industry professionals.

Meet the NASASPS Community: Connect with experienced NASASPS members and conference veterans who will share their insights and experiences, providing guidance on how to get involved and make the most of your membership.


Exploring Resources: Discover the wealth of resources offered by NASASPS, including publications, research, and tools designed to assist administrators in addressing challenges and staying informed about industry trends.

Interactive Q&A Session: Engage in an open forum where you can ask questions, seek advice, and connect with both new and experienced attendees, fostering a sense of community & collaboration.

This workshop is an excellent opportunity to kickstart your NASASPS conference experience, build valuable connections, and gain the knowledge and confidence needed to navigate the private postsecondary education landscape successfully.

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Welcome Reception

Join us for a lively welcome to “chuck Town”. Thank you to  **CYANNA**® our reception bar sponsor.

6:00 – 10:00 pm

NASASPS Hospitality Suite

Join fellow attendees for informal networking in the NASASPS Hospitality Suite in Bridgeview Suite on the 12th floor.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- 7:30 am - 4:00 pm **Registration**
- 7:30 - 8:30 am **Breakfast**
- 8:30 - 8:45 am **President’s Remarks and Host State Welcome**
- 8:45 - 9:45 am **Opening Keynote - Coping with the Challenge of Constant Change in Higher Education**
Jaynie Mitchell, EdD - *Director of Grants and Sponsored Research, Linfield University*
 The pace of change in higher education seems to be accelerating at breakneck speed, challenging both our day-to-day equilibrium and long-term progress. In this engaging presentation, Dr. Jaynie Mitchell will discuss positive ways to weather changes in the workplace. She combines stories from her decades of experience in higher education in multiple administrative roles with practical steps that anyone can take to keep their professional balance in the face of constant change.
- 9:45 - 10:00 am *Break*
- 10:00 - 11:30 am **State Updates: Latest News & Hot Topics**
Moderator: Kevin LaMountain - *Executive Director, Arizona Private Postsecondary Education*
 NASASPS will present a summary of the responses to the Spring 2024 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.
- 11:30 - 12:30 pm **The Federal Regulatory Outlook for 2024**
Aaron Lacey - *Partner and Practice Chair, Higher Education Practice, Thompson Coburn LLP*
Katie Wendel - *Counsel, Higher Education Practice Thompson Coburn LLP*
 Aaron Lacey and Katie Wendel, senior members of Thompson Coburn’s Higher Education practice, will provide a detailed review of the U.S. Department of Education’s sweeping regulatory agenda. We will discuss the final regulations that become effective July 1, 2024 (e.g. gainful employment, financial responsibility) as well as those regulations still in the rulemaking process (e.g. student loan forgiveness, distance education). We will focus on issues that are expected to be of particular interest to state regulators and speculate on the impact of the rules on the regulated community.
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm **Welcome Lunch – Meet your Regulator**
- 1:30 - 1:45 pm *Break*

1:45 - 2:45 pm

Concurrent Sessions:

1. Navigating Excellence (Accreditors' Panel)

Moderator: Kevin LaMountain - Executive Director, Arizona Private Postsecondary Education

Amy Rowe - Associate Executive Director of Membership Services, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

Darin M. Wallace, Esq. - Executive Director, National Accrediting Commission of Career Arts & Sciences, Inc.

Leah Matthews - Executive Director, Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)

Michale McComis - Executive Director, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC)

This engaging session brings together esteemed experts and thought leaders in the field of private postsecondary education to explore the significance and impact of accreditation in ensuring quality and accountability. 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.

2. Student Complaints – Many Options, But Do Students Know Where to Go?

Cheryl Dowd - Senior Director, State Authorization Network (SAN)

Jeannie Pauline Yockey-Fine - Senior Vice President & General Counsel, National Council State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)

Marianne Boeke - President, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)

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

How does a student know how and to whom to submit a student complaint? While students should seek resolution within their institution, they may need to consider external options to address their grievances. External options can include, state higher education agencies, SARA Portal Entities, accreditors, U.S. Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Education Ombudsman, as well as states attorneys general. This panel will share the entity distinctions with extra focus on the state options. We will engage the audience on how to share information clearly with students so they can understand differences when seeking final resolutions to their concerns.

2:45 - 3:15 pm

Eclipse Break

NASASPS invites attendees to enjoy the solar eclipse as it approaches its maximum at 3:10 pm.

Thank you to  for sponsoring this break.

3:15 - 4:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions:

1. Accreditation & Distance Education: Maintaining Compliance While Embracing New Opportunities

Crystal Calarusse - Associate Executive Director of Program Development & Innovation, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)

Leah Mathews - Executive Director, Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)

In this session, leaders from two institutional accreditation agencies will discuss the growing reach of distance education into higher education, with nearly 32% of all higher education students enrolled “exclusively” in distance education programs and at least 68% percent of students enrolled in at least one distance education course (IPEDS 21-22). The session will address new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and learning tools, and their impact on educational delivery; emerging assessment approaches and expectations such as direct assessment and substantive interaction engagement; as well as the regulatory aspects of distance education, including the relationship between accreditors and state regulatory bodies.

3:15 - 4:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions, continued:

2. Beat the Summer Heat! Institutions Share How They Are Preparing for New Licensure Regulations effective July 1

Brandie Elliott-Woodall - State Authorization Coordinator, Missouri Online

Kris Maul, JD - Co-Founder and Principal, Higher Education Licensure Pros LLC

LaDonna Rodvold - State Authorization Specialist, University of South Dakota

Nan Kalke, Ph.D - Co-Founder and Principal, Higher Education Licensure Pros LLC

Rachel Sowell Keil - University Director for Academic Compliance, Antioch University

The new Department of Education regulations (effective July 1, 2024) require institutions to certify that programs meet educational requirements for licensure where the campus is located and where students are located. Presenters representing various institutions will share their experiences working to meet current licensure disclosure requirements and preparing for increased responsibilities, by creating policies, building institutional infrastructure, and conducting the research and curriculum comparisons required to understand and communicate educational requirements for licensure. A comprehensive best practice guide with research templates, forms, and examples will be provided.

4:15 - 4:20 pm

Transition Break

4:20 - 5:00 pm

Concurrent Meetings:

1. NASASPS Business Meeting

Open to all NASASPS member levels.

2. SAN Meeting – Special Presentation

Use What You've Got: How to Organize and Analyze a Complex Regulatory Environment

Mitchell Gilbert - Director of Regulatory Affairs, Western Governors University

Mike Jones - Regulatory Affairs Analyst, Western Governors University

Katie Slaughter - Regional Regulatory Affairs Advisor, Western Governors University

Today's regulatory environment has become increasingly complex, making it difficult to track the constant changes for higher education compliance professionals. Using common systems and tools at your disposal, compliance offices can implement a well-organized system to better respond to changing policies and new trends. This presentation will provide an overview of how the WGU Regulatory Affairs team utilizes common tools such as Smartsheet, SharePoint, PowerBI, and StateNet to organize our work and track the changes to state authorization, professional licensure, and other compliance topics nationwide, emphasizing alerting staff to new trends and analyzing data we have gathered.

6:00 – 10:00 pm

NASASPS Hospitality Suite

Join fellow attendees for informal networking in the NASASPS Hospitality Suite in Bridgeview Suite on the 12th floor.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 - 9:30 am

Breakfast Sessions:

1. Regulator Breakfast – Breakfast with the Ed Department

Wesley Whistle, Special Assistant with the Office of the Under Secretary of the Department of Education, will join our regular attendees for breakfast to provide information and answer questions.

2. State Authorization Network (SAN) Member Breakfast & Attendee Breakfast

Wesley Whistle will join SAN and general attendees briefly at 8:00 am before joining the Regulator Breakfast. Breakfast service will begin at 7:45 am, so feel free to arrive early and say hello to Wesley

9:30 - 9:45 am

Break

9:45 - 10:45 am

Concurrent Sessions:

1. Working with State Associations to Improve Compliance and Outcomes for Non-accredited Institutions

Kevin LaMountain - Executive Director, Arizona Private Postsecondary Education

John Ware - Executive Director, Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools

Susan Ciardullo - Executive Director, Arizona Private School Association

Many state regulators provide oversight to a myriad of smaller non-accredited institutions. These non-accredited institutions can be challenging to monitor and oversee due to their lack of sophistication and limited experience operating a regulated business. This session will discuss strategies for improving compliance with these schools and how to work with your state career school association or other local non-profit and government entities that support small businesses to give these smaller institutions opportunities for successful outcomes.

2. Road tripping with MS+: Exploring PLC 2024 and Beyond SAN Session

Anne M. Klingen, JD - Director of State Authorization and Compliance, The University of Mississippi

Jennifer Lewis, M.Ed., MHA, CP, CEOE - Associate Director of Compliance and Ethics, University of Southern Mississippi

Kelly Karki - State Regulatory Manager, Purdue Global

Kenneth Heard - Director for Academic Compliance/FERPA Officer, University of Mississippi Medical Center

Krista LeBrun, Ph.D - Assistant Executive Director for eLearning & Instructional Technology, Mississippi Community College Board

Shanna Murray-Luke, EdD - Director of Online Learning, William Carey University

Explore how Professional Licensure Disclosures (PLC) can effectively balance consumer protection and student choice through a focus on the alternate pathways available for licensure. Analyze examples of program disclosures and accompanying attestations to understand their unique characteristics and learn strategies for crafting them.

10:45 - 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am - Noon

Concurrent Sessions:

1. Navigating Regulatory Changes: Ensuring Compliance in Professional Licensure

 SAN Session

Ping Jiang, Ph.D - Senior Compliance Coordinator, University of Kentucky Distance Learning

Carly Devenburgh - Assistant Director for Global Compliance, University of Kentucky Distance Learning

Higher education institutions are currently strategizing their operational processes to align with the upcoming federal regulations on Financial Responsibility, Administrative Capability, Certification Procedures, and Ability To Benefit (ATB), set to take effect on July 1, 2024. In this interactive roundtable discussion, participating schools will have the opportunity to exchange best practices, sharing insights into their planning progress and challenges. The session aims to assist school officials in navigating the new regulations concerning PPA Certification, public disclosure, and direct disclosure requirements, facilitating a smoother compliance process.

2. Financial Monitoring Best Practices for State Regulators

Dustin Weeden - Associate Vice President, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

Ken Sauer - Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Ross Miller - Director of State Authorization and Reciprocity, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Sam Loftin - Director of Consumer Protection, Washington Student Achievement Council

The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association convened a working group of state regulators, accreditors, academics, and state finance officers to identify best practices for monitoring the financial health of institutions. Through a panel discussion with the state regulators that participated in the working group, this session will present the best practice recommendations for qualitative and quantitative screening measures, follow-up actions to take once an institution is considered at risk of closure, and coordination with other members of the triad. A financial monitoring tool that incorporates the best practice measures will also be demonstrated and made available to attendees.

Noon - 1:30 pm

Lunch on your own

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Federal Regulations Update - Spotlight on New Federal Rules Related to State Authorization and Distance Education

Carolyn Fast - Director of Higher Education Policy and Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

John Ware - Executive Director, Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools

Our presentation will provide an update on the new federal rules issued by the Department of Education in October 2023 related to institutional compliance with state consumer protection laws and on the Department's proposals for rule changes during the upcoming 2024 negotiated rulemaking on state authorization and distance education. We will focus on how these new rules and proposals for rule changes will impact state oversight over institutions of higher education. The presentation will cover the context for the Department's rule changes, stakeholders' questions and concerns about the changes, and the impact of the new rules on state regulators. In addition to discussing the substance of the new federal rules and proposals and their impact on state regulators, we will also provide details about the rulemaking process and about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the rulemaking process and ensure that their voices are heard by the Department. Carolyn Fast, a co-presenter, has participated in three Department negotiated rulemakings and will describe the various avenues for participating in the rulemaking process. We hope to empower stakeholders to participate effectively in the rulemaking process. This interactive session will prioritize providing an opportunity for state regulators, institutions, and other

stakeholders to share their unique perspectives, insights, experiences, questions, and concerns about the new rules and proposals.

2:30 - 3:00 pm

Puppy Break

Decompress with a cuddle! NASASPS thanks **LIRN** for sponsoring this break.

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Working Together: The importance of connections between state agencies, licensing boards, and the triad

Sean Seepersad - Division Director, Academic Affairs, Connecticut Office of Higher Education

Various stakeholders are involved in ensuring consumer protection and student success at schools and institutions. As state regulators it often involves communications between other state agencies, licensing boards, accreditors, the US Department of Education, and others. Often the actions of one stakeholder can also have consequences for other stakeholders as well. The presentation will highlight some general examples from CT Office of Higher Education of how these connections can aid in student success as well as talk about lessons learned.

4:00 - 4:15 pm

Break

4:15 - 5:00 pm

Concurrent Meetings:

1. NASASPS Annual Meeting

Open to NASASPS regular members only.

2. SAN Meeting

6:00 – 10:00 pm

NASASPS Hospitality Suite

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

7:30 - 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30 - 9:30 am

A Vision for SARA and Consumer Protection

Amy Spies - Compliance Specialist, DC Higher Education Licensure Commission

Heather DeLange - Director, Office of Private Postsecondary Education, Colorado Department of Higher Education

Kate McCartan - Institutional Monitoring Specialist, Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Molly Hall-Martin - Director, W-SARA, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

SARA Policy employed in conjunction with state authorization statutes has the ability to provide regulators and state portal entities (SPEs) with the tools they need to advance their state's state authorization objectives related to consumer protection. Panelists, representing the perspectives of Regional Compacts, state regulators, and SPEs, will discuss how SARA policy has helped in their ability to achieve the consumer protection objectives of state authorization processes as well as their vision for SARA policy improvements to further those goals and provide states with more tools for protecting students.

9:45 - 10:45 am

Things I Wish You Knew: Insights from State Regulators for Educational Institutions

NASASPS Board of Directors

A panel of seasoned state regulators will candidly share their perspectives, experiences, and insider knowledge with educational institutions. As gatekeepers of compliance and quality assurance, these regulators hold a wealth of information that can significantly impact how institutions operate and thrive. They also have practical advice beyond the published regulations that can help the regulatory process continue to progress smoothly from opening of a location to final closure or teach-out. Join us for an enlightening conversation that bridges the gap between regulators and institutions.

11:00 am - Noon

The Little Big Things

Dr. Faye Allard - Department Head, Social Science and Associate Professor of Sociology, Community College of Philadelphia

The little things matter. Such seemingly small acts, or "Little Big Things," often leave their mark on student's lives in a big way. In this highly interactive presentation you will learn about the life changing power of those in higher education employing the Little Big Things, the science behind why our brains try to talk us out of doing these good things for others, case studies, practical tips, and the guiding principles of giving, uplifting, and validating others so that you can make a small but significant positive impact in your classrooms, offices and beyond.