

# **“Pot Holes on the Road to State Authorization: An Institutional Perspective”**

**National Association of State Administrators &  
Supervisors of Private Schools**

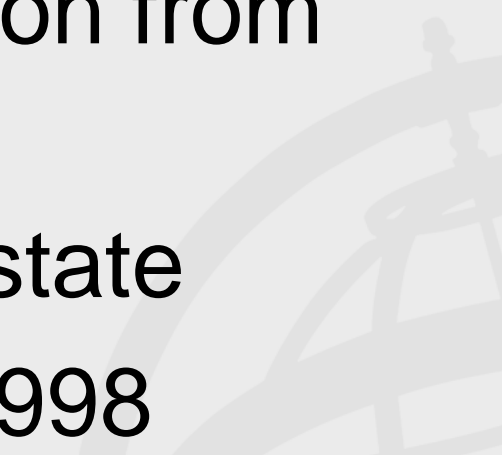
**2013 Annual Conference**

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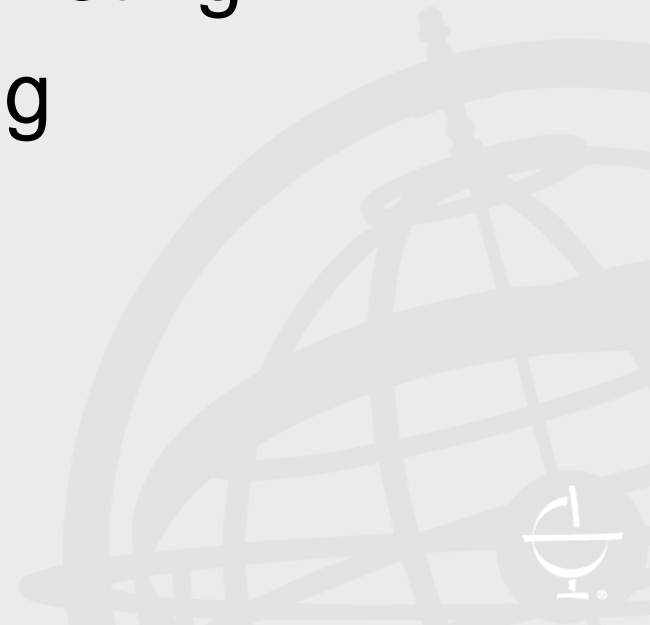


# EXCELSIOR

- Founded in 1971 by the Regents of the State of New York to serve adults
  - Accredited by NYS & Middle States
  - Holds program accreditation from NLNAC, ABET, IACBE
  - 37,000 students in every state
  - Private, non-profit since 1998
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# Online Education

- Since 2003
- Distributed faculty
- Exam sites = Global
- Heavy use of internet for marketing
- Minimal F2F student recruiting



# Pre-Program “Integrity”

- Concern for true “physical presence”
- Perceived opportunity to hold varying points of view
- Few problems



# State Authorization

- Students in each of the specified 54 jurisdictions
- Need to comply




# What We Found

- Wildly differing requirements
  - New definitions of physical presence
  - Fees from 0 to tens of thousands
  - Multiple interested agencies within some states



- Application processes that range from an email exchange to those that require:
  - All faculty vitae
  - All course syllabi
  - Notorized faculty forms, which duplicate contents of CV
  - Photographs
  - Background checks for telephone staff
  - Hearings
  - Site visits

# Impact

- Additional staff
  - Legal advice
  - Government relations coordination
  - Staff time to collect, duplicate required info (+ duplication costs)
  - Attention to “Audit Trail” (registered mail)
  - Expanded institutional audit
  - State fees
  - Travel
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# Director/Indirect Costs

Year One

\$330,050.47

(x3000 institutions = \$900M)

# Impact on States

- Avalanche of work
- Reduction of choice for citizens
- Increased dependence on tax supported providers within state



# Can We Do Better?

- Need for greater uniformity and reciprocity
- Does consumer choice need to be lost in order to provide consumer protection?
- Objective of institutions is not to avoid regulation overnight
- Concerns are around cost containment and efficiency



# Actions/Recommendations

- Review/adopt “SARA”
- Review existing requirements for consistency and relevance
- Work together



# Q & A

