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

National Association of State Administrators & Supervisors of Private Schools

2013 Annual Conference
April 23, 2013
Sacramento, CA
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
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
- Notarized 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
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