WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

WHY IS ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT?

WHAT DO TRUSTEES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACCREDITATION?
WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

REVIEW OF UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND PROGRAMS FOR ACADEMIC QUALITY

PURPOSES: QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

INVOLVES ALL OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION:
• ALL INSTITUTIONAL TYPES = 8,300
• PROGRAMS = 24,000
WHAT IS...2

85 ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS:
• INSTITUTIONAL: REGIONAL AND NATIONAL
• PROGRAMMATIC

DECENTRALIZED

NONGOVERNMENTAL

CREATED AND FUNDED BY HIGHER EDUCATION

SELF- AND PEER REVIEW ➔
WHAT IS…3

EVIDENCE-BASED, STANDARDS-BASED, TRUST-BASED

MISSION/FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

QUALITATIVE, FORMATIVE, PROFESSIONALS REVIEWING PROFESSIONALS

MULTIPLE ACCREDITATIONS

PERIODIC
HOW DOES ACCREDITATION WORK?

FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS AND POLICIES

SELF STUDY

SITE VISIT

ACCREDITATION ACTION

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW
WHO JUDGES ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS?

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

STANDARDS-BASED, PERIODIC REVIEW CALLED “RECOGNITION”
WHAT A CAMPUS AND BOARD EXPERIENCE WITH ACCREDITATION

CAMPUS PREPARES SELF-STUDY

SITE TEAM VISITS CAMPUS

ACCREDITOR SENDS TEAM REPORT

ACCREDITING COMMISSION DECIDES ACCREDITED STATUS

FOLLOW-UP: REGULAR AND OTHER REPORTS
TRUSTEES....HAVE YOU

PARTICIPATED IN SELF-STUDIES?

REVIEWED FINAL SELF-STUDY REPORT?

MET WITH VISITING TEAM?

REVIEWED DRAFT AND FINAL TEAM REPORT?

GONE TO COMMISSION MEETING WITH CEO?

RECEIVED ACTION LETTER?

REQUIRED FOLLOW-UP REPORTS FROM STAFF?
WHY IS ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT?

BASIC INDICATOR OF ACADEMIC LEGITIMACY: NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

THRESHOLD QUALITY

ACCESS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MONEY: STUDENT AID

EASES TRANSFER OF CREDIT, STUDENT MOBILITY

BUILDS PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
WHY IS ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT?

GATEKEEPING

• INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS WANT ACCESS TO FEDERAL FUNDS

• INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS MUST BE ACCREDITED BY A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITOR TO OBTAIN FUNDS

• $170 BILLION ANNUALLY

• 7,200+ INSTITUTIONS

• MORE THAN 22 MILLION STUDENTS IN 2011/12
WHAT DO TRUSTEES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACCREDITATION?

UNDER FIRE: CREDIBILITY, RESPECT, CONFIDENCE

ISSUES:
• EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE, STUDENT LEARNING, GRADUATION, JOBS
• BAD ACTORS
• COLLEGE VALUE
• TRANSPARENCY
• INNOVATION
• “COMPLIANCE COPS”

DEMands: PERFORMANCE, INNOVATION, TRANSPARENCY, COLLEGE VALUE
WHAT TRUSTEES NEED TO KNOW – FEDERAL POLICY

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT – HOUSE AND SENATE: APPROACH, TIMETABLE

EXPECTATIONS:

• PERFORMANCE, INNOVATION, TRANSPARENCY AND COLLEGE VALUE

• WHAT’S NEW: MULTIPLE ACCREDITORS, MULTIPLE PATHS TO FEDERAL FUNDS, NON-INSTITUTIONAL PROVIDERS, “SKIN IN THE GAME”

• USDE:
  • OUTCOMES, OUTCOMES, OUTCOMES
  • EXPERIMENTAL SITES: CBE, NEW PROVIDERS
WHAT DO TRUSTEES NEED TO KNOW - 3?

THE CHANGING ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN ACCREDITATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

• MORE AND MORE DIRECT OVERSIGHT OF ACCREDITATION: EXPANDED REGULATIONS, CREDIT HOUR – CONGRESS AND USDE

• MORE AND MORE FEDERAL CAPACITY TO JUDGE QUALITY: RATINGS, DASHBOARD

• MORE AND MORE INITIATIVES AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION

...ACCREDITATION MORE AND MORE A GOVERNMENT – NOT HIGHER EDUCATION – ENTERPRISE...
SO – ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT TO TRUSTEES….

REAUTHORIZATION:

• CHALLENGES: WE DON’T WANT TO LOSE THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

• EXPANDING ROLE OF GOVERNMENT MAY CONFLICT WITH BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

• EXPANDING ROLE OF GOVERNMENT MAY AFFECT ROLE OF TRUSTEES
FOR TRUSTEES....

WORK WITH YOUR CEO

BE AWARE

- ACCREDITATIONS AT YOUR INSTITUTION
- WHEN VISITS OCCUR
- POLICY ISSUES/CHALLENGES FOR ACCREDITATION

ASK FOR REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- SELF STUDY, TEAM REPORT, ACTION LETTER
- PROGRESS ON FOLLOW-UP
- REGULAR BOARD BRIEFINGS

PARTICIPATE, BASED ON CONSULTATION WITH CEO

- SELF STUDY
- SITE VISIT

INFORM /ORIENT NEW TRUSTEES ➔
FOR TRUSTEES - 2

SERVE ON ACCREDITING COMMISSIONS

SERVE ON SITE VISIT TEAMS

ENGAGE ACCREDITATION POLITICALLY

MAKE SURE THAT ACCREDITATION IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR BOARD
SUMMARY: ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION IS REVIEW OF ACADEMIC QUALITY FOR ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT
• DECENTRALIZED, NONGOVERNMENTAL

ACCREDITATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:
• THRESHOLD QUALITY, ACCESS TO FUNDING, STUDENT MOBILITY AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

WHAT TRUSTEES NEED TO KNOW:
• EXPANDING ROLE OF GOVERNMENT, CALLS FOR EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE, TRANSPARENCY, COLLEGE VALUE, IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT WITH ACCREDITATION
ACCREDITATION IS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN ACCREDITATION
THANK YOU

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