

SEARCH PROFILE:

PRESIDENT

CHEA Council for
Higher Education
Accreditation

CHEA International Quality Group

CIQG®

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The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) invites applications and nominations as the Council searches for the next President. The Council seeks a strategic, forward-thinking,

and collaborative president prepared to serve as a national and international thought leader in a changing postsecondary accreditation landscape.

THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is a nonprofit organization started by college and university presidents in an effort to respond to the U.S. Department of Education's and the U.S. Congress's overt engagement in higher education, as well as to provide a non-governmental recognition process for institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations in the United States. CHEA Recognition indicates that an accrediting organization has met rigorous CHEA standards for the promotion of academic quality, institutional improvement, and advancement of student success; demonstration of public accountability for performance and transparency; and sustains an effective accreditation structure and organization. CHEA offers recognition to U.S. and international organizations that meet the eligibility requirements.

It was the efforts of these earlier presidents who insisted that universities should be the primary determinants of quality academic performance. The institutional and program "self-study" processes and

the philosophy of academic continuous improvement are the cornerstones of CHEA's advocacy and recognition. For more than 28 years, CHEA has been the primary advocate for institutions in the accreditation process. Previous years have indicated a growing assertive effort by the federal government to issue more regulations regarding academic quality in higher education, which are often tied to federal funding. CHEA continues to serve on behalf of public, private, two- and four-year degree-granting institutions.

CHEA is the only national organization in the United States focused exclusively on higher education accreditation and quality assurance. The Council recognizes U.S. accrediting organizations, which includes institutional, regional, faith-related and programmatic accrediting organizations and is governed by a [20-person board of college and university presidents, institutional representatives and public members](#).

THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION (CONT.)

CHEA:

- Is a major national voice and advocate for higher education accreditation and quality assurance.
- Scrutinizes accrediting organizations for their effectiveness in advancing academic quality and serving higher education, students and the public.
- Recognizes U.S. accrediting organizations, including regional, institutional, national faith-related and programmatic accrediting organizations.
- Serves as a national and international authority on accreditation and quality assurance and an unsurpassed information resource.
- Supports and works to advance the role of accreditation in maintaining the core academic values of higher education – commitments to institutional autonomy, academic freedom and institutional mission.
- Provides a major national and international forum for communication and exchange among accrediting organizations, institutions and programs.

CHEA serves higher education members, accreditation communities and the public as it executes the following functions:

- Validates through recognition processes sound and effective higher education accrediting bodies.
- Conducts and coordinates research that informs and advances accreditation and quality assurance.
- Serves as a national advocate to government, media and the public for higher education quality through accreditation and peer review.
- Collects and disseminates data and information about accreditation through a biennial public almanac.

- Offers non-binding arbitration between institutions and accreditors regarding final adverse accrediting decisions.
- Works to preserve the quality and diversity of colleges and universities.

For a complete list of recognized accrediting organizations and their accredited institutions or programs, see:

- [The CHEA Database of Institutions and Programs Accredited by Recognized U.S. Accrediting Organizations](#)
- [The USDE Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs](#)

MISSION

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) serves its members, students, and society through advocacy for the value and independence of accreditation, recognition of accrediting organizations and commitment to quality in higher education.

RECOGNITION

CHEA recognition of an accrediting organization follows a rigorous process designed to assess and affirm the quality of U.S. institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations. CHEA is the only nongovernmental higher education organization in the United States that engages in and awards recognition to institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations. Although the U.S. Department of Education conducts governmental recognition reviews for accrediting organizations, CHEA acts independently of the federal government's recognition activities. CHEA recognition focuses solely on academic quality assurance of institutions and programs.

THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION (CONT.)

CHEA recognition standards require that an accrediting organization:

- Promotes academic quality and advance student achievement. Advancement of academic quality is at the core of accreditation. Accrediting organizations provide evidence that they implement and enforce standards, policies, and/or procedures that reflect the accrediting organization's expectations for academic quality.
- Demonstrates public accountability for performance and transparency. Public accountability for performance and transparency includes expectations related to the decision-making and accountability of accrediting organizations, and the performance of accredited institutions or programs in meeting the accrediting organizations expectations (quantitative and qualitative).
- Sustains an effective accreditation structure and organization. A recognized accrediting organization provides evidence that it implements standards and policies that manifest a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, ensure ethical practices in its operations, and are consistent with the CHEA standards.
- Demonstrates capacity and compliance for international accreditation. A recognized accrediting organization that accredits outside of the United States demonstrates that it has the competence to engage in international accreditation activities and applies standards that are substantially comparable to U.S. institutions and programs.

CHEA FELLOWS PROGRAM

The [CHEA Fellows Program](#) provides senior-level graduate students with experiences in the field of higher education accreditation, including recognition processes for accrediting organizations, policy development, nonprofit board oversight and operations, communications, business, and finance

and government affairs. These content areas of experience are valuable to graduate students who are seeking professional opportunities in higher education leadership, in government or with nonprofit organizations. Additionally, the CHEA Fellows program provides selected applicants with exposure to personnel and influencers in higher education, the federal government, and international partners.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

CHEA cultivates and supports an environment that demonstrates appreciation for and values the diversity of its institutions of higher education, accreditors, board, and staff, as well as all who are served by these groups. We believe that the life experiences and heritages of these groups contribute to the richness of CHEA's policies, procedures, and daily operations.

CHEA's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusiveness guides its mission and its support for equitable treatment for institutions of higher education, families, and students.

CHEA believes in justice for all and supports the rights of every person to pursue their course of happiness in a just society. Colleges and universities are the bedrocks of change and foster free thinking, individualism, and freedom of just the simple right "to be."

CHEA's commitment to higher education, families, students, and other communities is grounded in the assurance of academic quality. CHEA believes that the rich values of diversity, equity and inclusion are inextricably linked to quality assurance in higher education. Additionally, CHEA affirms that diversity, equity, and inclusion contribute to student success; and, that student success contributes to a better, healthier, and more enlightened, progressive society.

THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL QUALITY GROUP

The [Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group](#) (CIQG), the international affiliate of the CHEA, is an assembly of higher education experts from across the globe, committed to the promotion of quality higher education internationally. CIQG members include quality assurance agencies of post-secondary institutions that are recognized by their government (or any other official authority), higher education associations, government agencies, higher education consultants, and individuals who are vested in and committed to quality assurance in higher education. CIQG members are poised to collaborate for the purpose of addressing matters that may enhance, or compromise, quality assurance in higher education, worldwide.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

CIQG's purpose is to enhance quality assurance efforts in higher education across the globe through collaborative discourse and research. As such, the Group provides a forum for its members to: (1) study and advance understanding of international quality assurance; (2) assist institutions and accreditation/quality assurance organizations in their expanding international engagement; and (3) promote the development of policies that further enhance capacity for academic quality in international higher education.

CIQG provides related services to international accreditation/quality assurance organizations, higher education associations, students, government and employers. These services are intended to advance understanding of international quality assurance,

assist institutions and accreditation/quality assurance organizations in their expanding international engagement and further enhance capacity for academic quality in international higher education.

The Group:

- Serves as a U.S. forum for international quality assurance.
- Identifies and explores key international quality policy issues.
- Provides research and consultation services to institutions, accreditation/quality assurance organizations, governments, and other organizations nationally and internationally, upon request.
- Works with other U.S. and international organizations to address future international quality challenges, opportunities, and concerns.

CIQG ADVISORY COUNCIL

The advisory council consists of no more than 20 members from various academic and accreditation/quality assurance communities across the globe, reflecting diversity in geographic regions and expertise in international quality assurance, and includes individuals from major multinational organizations that focus on higher education or quality assurance. The advisory council guides CIQG's strategic direction, membership development, and projects.

THE PRESIDENT

The President is the chief executive officer of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and responsible to the board of directors for the leadership and management of the organization as well as guiding the direction of CHEA – including CHEA’s international affiliate CIQG – which includes:

- Serving as a spokesperson for U.S. accreditation and quality assurance and the role of CHEA within higher education, the public, and internationally and serving as the key voice and face of U.S. accreditation.
- Being an advocate for coherent and effective accreditation policies and quality assurance to the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, the media, and the general public.
- Fostering a cooperative climate of work with accrediting organizations, colleges and universities, and higher education associations to sustain and enhance the strengths and credibility of accreditation.
- Developing CHEA programs and strategies to advance quality assurance and improvement through accreditation.
- Determining organizational structure, staffing, and sound financial practices to achieve CHEA’s goals and objectives.

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will hold a terminal degree, possess executive-level experience appropriate to the role, and bring extensive accreditation experience.

Additionally, the ideal candidate should possess:

- Astute political acumen and advocacy, especially for accreditation and compliance;
- An understanding of the changing complexities of higher education;
- A dedication to improving lives, uplifting families, and creating brighter futures through the promotion of high academic standards and practices;
- A demonstrated commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- Strong operations management skills that will enable them to balance the leadership of CHEA’s internal operations with engagement in national and international discussions about accreditation;
- Financial management and leadership with an ability to lead the acquisition of new and diverse revenue streams that are core to and supportive of CHEA’s mission;
- An understanding and experience working in a membership organization, preferably at the executive level;
- Creative and innovative leadership that is experienced in marketing and strategic planning that promotes the organization, national awareness, and growth in membership and the financial portfolio of CHEA;
- Exceptional communication skills, both written and oral, that allow for great presentations, discussions, and dialogue with diverse key stakeholders; and
- A deep understanding and expertise of accreditation, national and international trends, issues, concerns, and opportunities.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should consist of a substantial letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five professional references with full contact information. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to:

CHEAPresident@academicsearch.org

The position is open until filled but only applications received by **Monday, January 13, 2025**, can be assured full consideration. This is a hybrid position requiring some physical presence in the Washington, D.C. office. The Council is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Ann Hasselmo at Ann.Hasselmo@academicsearch.org and Chris Butler at Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org. Further information about the Council for Higher Education Accreditation is available at <https://www.chea.org/>.

CHEA is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, veteran or disability status.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting The Council for Higher Education Accreditation in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

