

National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

UPDATE NEWSLETTER

July 2014 • Volume 1 • Issue 7

WICHE appoints Lopez to lead SARA



The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) appointed former Vice President of Government Affairs for Apollo Education Group Dr. John Lopez to direct the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) for the compact.

Lopez brings nearly 20 years of thought leadership in higher education. In his role as vice president, his responsibilities included managing the department, corporate staff, and contract lobbyists in as many as 36 states, legislative and political strategy development and implementation, and advocacy efforts.

Prior to joining Apollo, John was vice president of Planning and Research for the Institute for Professional Development, a higher education management consulting company, overseeing strategic and operational planning, institutional research, accreditation, and managing the academic research, market research and information technology teams. And during six years at the University of Arizona he led institutional re-accreditation, completed a variety of research and policy analysis projects, coordinated program reviews, and represented the University in various political settings including the Arizona Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting.

John has served on the WICHE-SARA Steering Committee, taught graduate courses and served as a dissertation reviewer for the University of Phoenix, and served four years as legislative aide for a state senator in the Nebraska Legislature.

Dr. Lopez earned his Ph.D. in higher education specializing in management and policy from the University of Arizona. His hobbies include golf, traveling and philanthropic work in his native country of Belize.

Contact information:

John Lopez, Ph.D.
Director, W-SARA
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
3005 W. Center Green Drive, Suite 130
Boulder, CO 80301
303.541.0277
jlopez@wiche.edu
www.wiche.edu/sara

Webinars

N-SARA Regional Webinar Part 2

Presented by the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)
Wednesday, July 23, 2014 • 2 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. CT / Noon MT / 11 a.m. PT

The second N-SARA webinar will discuss SARA progress around New England and the nation. It will also examine the state application process and review consumer complaint processes. There will be time at the end of the webinar to address questions. [To register, click here.](#)

State Authorization for Distance Education: The Future for Regulations and Reciprocity

Webcasts presented by:

M-SARA: Midwestern Higher Education Compact - State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

OLC: Online Learning Consortium (formerly Sloan-C)

UPCEA: University Professional & Continuing Education Association

WCET: WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies

State Authorization for Distance Education: The Future for Regulations

Thursday, August 14, 2014 • 2 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. CT / Noon MT / 11 a.m. PT

Highlights:

- Introduction by moderator: Laurie Hillstock, Facilitator, Online Learning Consortium Leadership Series
- Existing and changing state regulations: Joan Bouillon, Director of Regulatory Compliance, Pearson
- What are institutions doing about state authorization: Jim Fong, Center for Research and Consulting, UPCEA
- U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense regulations: Russ Poulin, Interim Co-Executive Director, WCET-WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies
- What should institutions do next?: Joan and Russ
- Respond to questions: Laurie and all

[Register for State Authorization for Distance Education: The Future for Regulations.](#)
[Limited space, register early!](#)

State Authorization for Distance Education: The Future for Reciprocity

Tuesday, August 19, 2014 • 2 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. CT / Noon MT / 11 a.m. PT

Highlights:

- Introduction by moderator: Jenny Parks, Director, Midwestern State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, Midwestern Higher Education Compact
- Update on SARA progress across the nation: Regional SARA Directors
- SARA, clinicals, and professional licensure: Alan Contreras, Coordinator, NC-SARA and W-SARA
- SARA, consumer protection, and complaint processes; how can institutions improve their processes and websites: Alan Contreras, Coordinator, NC-SARA and W-SARA, and Sara Appel, Academic Programs Manager, Indiana Commission for Higher Education
- Other commonly asked questions about what SARA will and will not "cover": Marshall Hill, Executive Director, NC-SARA, and Alan Contreras, Coordinator, NC-SARA and W-SARA
- Respond to questions: Jenny and all

[Register for State Authorization for Distance Education: The Future for Reciprocity.](#)
[Limited space, register early!](#)

The Future for Regulations and Reciprocity webcasts will be 90 minutes in length, with 30 minutes available for questions. They are free and will also be archived.



National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

A voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of distance education

Upcoming Presentations

**Council of State Governments (CSG)
Eastern Regional Conference**
August 5, 2014
Baltimore, Maryland

**State Higher Education Executive Officers
Association (SHEEO) Higher Education
Policy Conference**
August 7, 2014
Denver, Colorado

**Council of State Governments (CSG)
National & West Annual Conference**
August 10, 2014
Anchorage, Alaska

**Southern Regional Education Board
Electronic Campus Meeting**
September 9, 2014
Louisville, Kentucky

**Oregon Higher Education
Coordinating Commission**
September 11, 2014
Salem, Oregon

**Accrediting Commission of Career
Schools and Colleges (ACCSC)
Professional Development Conference**
September 19, 2014
Denver, Colorado

Contacts

Marshall A. Hill, Executive Director
303.541.0237
mhill@nc-sara.org

Lisa Greco, Communications Coordinator
303.541.0267
lgreco@nc-sara.org

**National Council for State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements**
3005 Center Green Drive, Suite 130
Boulder, Colorado 80301
information@nc-sara.org
303.541.0283
www.nc-sara.org