

ASPA e-Conference – Spring 2026

Monday – March 30, 2026 (all times Eastern; breakout room after each session for continued discussion)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm – Micro Credentials and Programmatic Accreditors (Precipice of Change or Stalemate?)

- Discuss how micro credentials could reshape, disrupt, or complement accreditation and traditional degree pathways
- Identify potential implementations for accreditors and professional certifications

Angela Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer, Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education

Mark Spence, Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Larry Schall, President, New England Commission of Higher Education

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm – Handling Complex Complaints

- Identify practical processes to manage complex complaints from first-time and repeat complainants
- Discuss strategies for managing persistent complaints while maintaining fairness, transparency, and consistency

Samantha Morello, Associate Director, American Veterinary Medical Association

Rayane AbuSabha, Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

John Przypyszny, Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm – State and Federal Policy Insights

- Receive updates on state and federal policy developments that impact accreditors
- Gain insights on legislative trends, regulatory shifts, and implications for accreditors

Zach Waymer, Executive Director, Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

Tom Harnisch, Vice President for Government Relations, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

Tuesday – March 31, 2026 (all times Eastern; breakout room after each session for continued discussion)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm – Governance and Operation

- Defines the shared governance structure within accrediting organizations, clarifying the roles of boards, staff, and volunteers
- Discuss making policy decisions, managing conflicts of interest, and maintaining operational consistency

Todd Neuhardt, Director of Accreditation, Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education

Denise Roosendaal, Vice President, Smithbucklin

Jonathan Lurie, Vice President Client Support and Innovation, Smithbucklin

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm – Value of Accreditation

- Discuss various approaches to effectively communicating the value of accreditation
- Apply data-driven approaches to demonstrate accreditation's relevance and importance, especially during times of financial or organizational uncertainty

Kristen Varol, Director, Accreditation Services, Council on Education for Public Health

Jesmarie Johnson, Executive Director, Planning Accreditation Board

Jennifer Horowitz, President, Horowitz Marketing Communications

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Student Achievement and Outcomes

- Explore innovative approaches to measuring and reporting student achievement beyond traditional metrics
- Discuss competency-based assessment, outcome benchmarking, and case studies that illustrate how accreditors can better represent public interest through transparent data analysis and continuous improvement

Samantha Morello, Associate Director, American Veterinary Medical Association

Collina Cooke, Executive Director of Accreditation, Council on Social Work Education

Megan Fujita, Vice President of Education, Council on Social Work Education

Shirdell Mattox, Executive Director, Midwifery Education Accreditation Council

