

Monday – September 14, 2026

Yours Truly 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

9:30 am – 10:00 am – Morning Beverages & Snacks (not breakfast) (Room 12)**10:00 am – 11:00 am – Members Only Session** (Room 9 & 10) – Only for ASPA members, their staff and board**Zach Waymer**, Executive Director, Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors**11:15 am – Official Start of Conference (All Attendees)****11:15 am – 12:15 pm – Taming the AI Frontier: Mitigating and Auditing Risk** (Room 9 & 10)

- ★ Understand the risks of inaction including data exposure, loss of institutional knowledge, and reputational risk
- ★ Learn how to audit AI usage and contain risk that can protect your accreditation agency
- ★ Review specific strategies to ensure your accreditation agency can safely and responsibly embrace the future of AI

Emily Vandermade, Accreditation Coordinator, Commission on English Language Program Accreditation**Jeff Reiter**, Chief Executive Officer, RWK IT Services**12:30 pm – 1:30 pm – Lunch** (Room 12)**1:45 pm – 3:30 pm – Campfire Conversations: Peer Discussions on Accreditation Issues** (Rooms 9 & 10 and 11)

- ★ Accreditation Travel Costs
- ★ High-Stakes Testing
- ★ Mergers and Acquisitions
- ★ Innovations

Kevin Connell, Assistant Director of Accreditation, Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs**Kendra Harrington**, Vice President, Practice & Research, American Physical Therapy Association**Mary Romanello**, Director of Accreditation, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education**Sylvia Fernandez**, President and CEO, Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs**Kelly Velasquez**, Director of Accreditation for Site Visit Operations, Council on Academic Accreditation Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology**Marc Medwed**, Director of Accreditation, National Architectural Accrediting Board**Nell Ard**, Chief Accreditation Officer, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing**Rayane AbuSabha**, Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics**Shirdell Mattox**, Executive Director, Midwifery Education Accreditation Council**3:30 pm – 3:45 pm – Snack Break** (Room 12)**3:45 pm – 4:45 pm – Rounding Up the Latest: Federal and State Policy Developments** (Rooms 9 & 10)

- ★ TBD

Jon Fansmith, Senior Vice President for Government Relations and National Engagement, American Council on Education**5:00 pm – 6:30 pm – Reception** (El Chalet)

Tuesday – September 15, 2026

7:30 am – 8:30 am – Breakfast (Room 12)

8:30 am – 9:30 am – Changing the Trail: Implementing Modern Board Governance (Rooms 9 & 10)

★ TBD

Nell Ard, Chief Accreditation Officer, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

Denise Roosendaal, Vice President, Association Management, Smithbucklin

Tim Hopkins, Managing Director, McKinley Advisors (a Smithbucklin Company)

9:45 am – 11:00 am – Prospecting for Value: Communicating Accreditation's Impact (Rooms 9 & 10)

★ TBD

Jamie Pak, Senior Manager, Program Accreditation, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

Ann Kenimer, Chief Accreditation Officer, ABET

Mollie Mulvanity, Deputy Director, Council on Education for Public Health

Leanne Worsfold, Senior Strategic Partner, Innovation and Strategy Planning, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Staying on the Right Side of the Law: Antitrust and Collusion Risks (A Legal Perspective) (Rooms 9 & 10)

★ TBD

Kendra Harrington, Vice President, Practice & Research, American Physical Therapy Association

John Przypyszny, Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

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