

**ACNM DIVISION OF ACCREDITATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2007**

Accreditation is a peer evaluation process, conducted by an agency recognized by the US Dept. of Education (USDE), which assures that educational institutions and programs meet established quality standards. Accreditation may seem like a boring subject to many people, but the work of the Division of Accreditation (DOA) over the years has made an important contribution to the excellence of midwifery education in this country. ACNM review of education programs began in 1957 by the Committee on Curriculum and Approval. As the Division of Accreditation, we received recognition by the USDE in 1982 by successfully completing an arduous approval process, and that recognition has been maintained through the subsequent 25 years. At the request of the ACNM membership, we received an expansion of scope in 2006 to include accreditation of freestanding institutions of midwifery education, in addition to our longstanding recognition for accreditation of midwifery programs.

Some highlights of 2007 are:

- Our interim report to the USDE was approved at the Dec. 2007 meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), and our request for a two-year extension of the three years of recognition that we received in 2006 was granted.
- We have thus far accredited only one freestanding institution, the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing. At the Dec. 2007 NACIQI meeting it was made clear that we are in jeopardy of losing our hard-won recognition as an institutional accrediting agency unless we accredit more institutions. We encourage any midwives who want to start their own midwifery schools to act quickly.
- The DOA will share the ACNM booth at ICM in Glasgow in June, 2008. The intent is to recruit one or two international partners who would be willing to work with us on an international accreditation project that might be fundable.
- The planned name change of the DOA to Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) was delayed when the revised ACNM Bylaws did not pass in 2007. This name change is being made to clarify the relationship of the DOA to ACNM, which is different from the other Divisions in the College, and will be implemented when the new Bylaws are passed.
- We are in the midst of our regular five-year revision of the Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation. One of the issues we are dealing with is the accreditation of doctoral programs, spurred by the rapid development of Doctor of Nursing Practice programs throughout the country. The first draft of the revised criteria will be available for comment by the ACNM membership.
- At the end of 2007, there were 38 accredited programs, including one that is closing but still finishing students, one preaccredited program, and one accredited institution. The decline in the number of programs has had a severe impact on the DOA budget, since we must generate our own income and do not receive any funds from ACNM. Anyone who wants to support high quality midwifery

education by supporting accreditation can do so by making a donation to the DOA fund within the ACNM Foundation.

- We said farewell to Nancy Hanson and Robin Dennis and welcomed Josie Burke as the new Education Administrative Assistant.

Many thanks are due to all the dedicated volunteers whose hard work keeps the DOA functioning. Special recognition goes to Alice Poe as the Chair of the Board of Review and Laraine Guyette (outgoing) and Sally Tom (incoming) Coordinator of the Site Visitor Panel.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Boyer
Chair, ACNM Division of Accreditation