

ACME Annual Report 2014

The mission of the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) is to advance excellence in midwifery education.

The **Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education** is an autonomous body that is responsible for accreditation of midwifery programs and institutions that meet established quality standards. Recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) since 1982, the goals of ACME include fostering the development and improvement in the quality of midwifery education and assuring the highest standards of professional competence are maintained. ACME accomplishes these goals through a peer review process. It currently accredits 39 programs at colleges and universities across the US and Puerto Rico. Financially autonomous from the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) since 1983, the current ACNM By-laws secure ACME's independence in all aspects of accreditation. ACME is governed by a Board of Commissioners (BOC), which implements its work via a Site Visitor Panel, the Board of Review and Advisory Committee. The ACME offices are in Silver Spring, Maryland. The U.S. Department of Education grants the following scope of recognition to ACME: "the accreditation and pre-accreditation of basic certificate, basic graduate nurse-midwifery, direct entry midwifery, and pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs, including those programs that offer distance education." ACME services are available to any education program that meets the eligibility requirements outlined in our Policies and Procedures Manual. ACME is administratively and financially autonomous from the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

This report is intended to highlight the accomplishments and decisions made throughout the year as they pertain to our accreditation decisions and activities.

The ACME Board of Review (BOR) took the following accreditation actions this year:

February 2014 Meeting:

At the conclusion of this meeting the following decisions were made:

PROGRAM	TYPE	STATUS
University of Miami	Nurse-Midwifery	Withdrawal of Accreditation

July 2014 Meeting:

At the conclusion of the meeting, the following programs received accreditation status:

PROGRAM	TYPE	STATUS
Bethel University	Nurse-Midwifery Program	Programmatic Pre-accreditation
Columbia University	Nurse-Midwifery Program	Continued Programmatic Accreditation
The Ohio State University	Nurse-Midwifery Program	Continued Programmatic Accreditation
University of Cincinnati	Nurse-Midwifery Program	(Pending Mandatory Progress Report)

December 2014 Meeting:

At the conclusion of this meeting the following decisions were made:

PROGRAM	TYPE	STATUS
The University of Puerto Rico	Nurse-Midwifery	Warning

The ACME BOR has placed the University of Puerto Rico on warning for non-compliance in meeting the following criteria from the ACME Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation of Midwifery Education Programs with Instructions for Elaboration and Documentation.

- Criterion VI: Assessment and Outcome, A.1.d. Certification pass rates, as available, for the Self Evaluation Review (SER) year for programs seeking initial accreditation, and for the past three years for programs seeking continuing accreditation.
- Criterion VI: Assessment and Outcome, A.2. The passing rate for first takers of the national certification examination is at least 85%. Programs develop effective plans to bring the pass rate to 85% if it drops below that point.

The ACME Commissioners, reviewers and executive director attended a variety of meetings and events of interest to the expansion of midwifery education in the US and the role of our accreditation commission.

Conferences attended in 2014 included:

US MERA – April 10-13, 2014

The US Midwifery Education, Regulation, and Association (US MERA) workgroup came together April 10-13, 2014, at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD, to continue discussions on how to advance the vision of expanding access to high quality midwifery care and physiologic birth for all women in all birth settings in the United States. For this, our second, professionally facilitated face-to-face meeting, we came together with intentionality toward collaborative consensus-building to create forward movement.

- Attended by Susan Stone, ACME Board of Commission (BOC) Chair, Katherine Carr Carmacho, ACME BOC Vice Chair, Suzanne Schechter, ACME Treasurer, Melissa Avery, ACME Commissioner and Heather L. Maurer, ACME Executive Director

The Cato Institute conference, “College Accreditation in the Crosshairs”, April 16, 2014

- Attended by Heather L. Maurer, Executive Director, ACME

CHEA Taskforce Meeting - May 21, 2014

Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Richard Burr (R-NC) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) created a Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education earlier this year. The Task Force, made up of college and university presidents, has been asked to provide advice to Congress about “costly, duplicative, confusing and excessive government regulations with specific suggestions for addressing the problem.” We expect that the work of the Task Force will be used in drafting language to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is working with the Task Force on accreditation regulation issues. Because of the enormous importance of the topic of federal regulation and its impact on accreditation, CHEA is hosting a meeting for all CHEA- and USDE-recognized accreditors. We want to continue to discuss how we might “consolidate, streamline and eliminate costly or confusing regulations, legislation and reporting requirements,” as the charge to the Task Force is described.

- Attended by Heather L. Maurer, Executive Director, ACME

ANSI ANAB World Accreditation Day Webinar - June 8, 2014

This event examined international standards and related conformity assessment accreditation activities that can support the work of a wide variety of organizations in different fields and sectors.

- Attended by Heather L. Maurer, Executive Director, ACME

2014 NCSBN State of Consensus Conference – July 2014

The 2014 NCSBN State of Consensus Conference was a dynamic review of the APRN Consensus Model. Heard from representatives of Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education (LACE) as they discuss the progress being made and what still needs to be done in order to achieve full alignment with the APRN Consensus Model.

- Attended by Susan Stone, ACME BOC Chair

ASPA Fall Conference – September 7-9, 2014

This meeting addressed a variety of issues of concern for accreditation agencies to minimize risk including:

Engagement of the accreditation decision-making body, fiduciary duties of care and loyalty in the accreditation setting,
Due process in accreditation decision-making, appeals and complaint procedures, and indemnification and insurance

- Attended by Heather L. Maurer

AACN - October 25-28, 2014

The meeting provided an opportunity to hear many perspectives and to have a rich discussion about APRN clinical education issues that we have in common. Our contributions to the discussion truly informed the work of AACN's APRN Clinical Training Task Force. ACME would like to continue the productive dialogue that was initiated at this meeting and move forward with our shared interest in this work.

- Attended by Heather L. Maurer

American Midwifery Certification Board Strategic Planning Meeting - November 2014

- Attended by Heather L. Maurer, Susan Stone.

APRN Clinical Stakeholder meeting in Washington, DC –December 2014

- Attended by Heather L. Maurer and Peter Johnson, Commissioner.

Many thanks are due to the dedicated volunteers who devote their time and expertise as members of the Board of Commission, the Board of Review, Site Visitor Panel and Advisory Board.

Susan Stone, ACME BOC Chair
Kathy Camacho Carr, ACME BOC Vice Chair
Suzanne Schechter, ACME BOC Treasurer
Carol Gisselquist, ACME BOC Member of the Public
Kerri Schuiling, ACME BOC Commissioner
Melissa Avery, ACME BOC Commissioner
Diane Boyer, Board of Review (BOR), Chair, *ex officio*
Joan Slager, Liaison from ACNM Board of Directors
Heather Maurer, ACME Executive Director (ED)
Jaime Sampson, ACME Administrative Assistant (AA)

Visit our website for additional information about our organization: www.midwife.org/acme