

# ACME | ACCREDITATION COMMISSION *for* MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

## 2015 Annual Report for USDE

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

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.

The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) Board of Review made the following accreditation decisions in 2015.

### **FEBRUARY 2015 BOARD OF REVIEW ACTIONS**

#### **Continued Programmatic Accreditation (through 2025)**

- **Case Western Reserve University**, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery Program
- **Frontier Nursing University**
- **Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences** (formally UMDNJ), Rutgers School of Nursing, Women's Health and Nurse-Midwifery

#### **Continued Programmatic Accreditation (through 2021)**

- **University of Cincinnati Nurse-Midwifery College of Nursing and Health**, Nurse-Midwifery Education Program

#### **Substantive Change**

- **University of Illinois at Chicago**, College of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery Program added a DNP program.

#### **Adverse Action**

- None

### **JULY 2015 BOARD OF REVIEW ACTIONS**

#### **Continued Programmatic Accreditation Granted through (July 2025)**

- **Midwifery Institute at Philadelphia University**, Nurse-Midwifery Program, Master of Science and Post-Master's Certificate
- **Shenandoah University**, Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery Program, Master of Science and Post-Graduate Certificate

#### **Substantive Change**

- None

#### **Adverse Action**

- None

**Midwifery Education Trends Report:** In 2015, ACME in collaboration with the American College of Nurse-Midwives created the [2015 Midwifery Education Trends Report](#). This report discusses in detail the trends of the past five years as well as offer midwives as the solution to the national shortage of providers of primary, reproductive, and obstetric health care for women in the US.

**Memberships & Associations:** ACME is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA), an association of organizations that evaluate the quality of programs in higher education for more than 100 different professions and specialized disciplines from nursing to architecture, and physical therapy to engineering. ACME is also a participating member of LACE-APRN Consensus Process. In July 2008, the AACN Board of Directors endorsed the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: *Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education*. AACN and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) facilitated the consensus-building process used to develop this model.

**Board of Commissioners and Industry Meetings:** ACME Board of Commissioners and the Executive Director attended many industry meetings to maintain knowledge on accreditation, midwifery education and other related topics to the practice of accreditation. Highlights include the following:

- **Preparing the Nursing Workforce for a Changing Health System: The Role of Graduate Nursing Education**  
An alliance briefing provided a background on nursing education today and explored how nursing education and training is changing to meet the needs of an aging population and expanded coverage through the Affordable Care Act. The event was sponsored by AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. January 2015.
- **US MERA Annual Meeting** was held to bring together leadership and expertise to identify priorities and to be a unified, credible, recognized voice for issues that affect midwifery education, certification, accreditation, regulation, association, and practice. The goal is to increase access to high quality and culturally relevant midwifery care. April 2015
- **IOM Dissemination Event for the IOM Workshop Summary on Empowering Women and Strengthening Health Systems and Services Through Investing in Nursing and Midwifery Enterprise**, March 2015.
- Dr. Peter Johnson, ACME BOC Chair and Heather Maurer, ACME Executive Director attended the **US MERA Direct Assessment Task Force**, August 2015.  
The US MERA Direct Assessment Task Force engaged Dr. Charla Long, a national expert in Competency Based Direct Assessment Education (CBE DA), to facilitate a meeting to develop a consensus vision and blueprint for applying innovations in CBE DA to the training of midwives. The Direct Assessment Task Force was charged by the US MERA collaboration to: “Develop and implement MEAC and/or ACME-accredited direct assessment midwifery education programs by 2020.” This charge is in support of the 2014 US MERA commitment of all seven of the organizations in the collaboration to:  
“Effective immediately, support legislative language stating that, by 2020, all new applicants for midwifery licensure must have successfully completed an education process accredited by ACME or MEAC that qualifies them to take the AMCB or NARM national certification exam.”
- Heather Maurer, ACME Executive Director attended, **The CHEA 2015 Summer Workshop**. July 2015. The workshop featured speakers from Capitol Hill, the Obama administration, accrediting organizations, higher education institutions and business.