

Greetings! We hope you enjoy our first newsletter.

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

Call to Action:

ACME BOC Seeks Volunteers to Join ACME Criteria Review Task Force

ACME's Board of Commissioners seeks five volunteers to join the ACME Criteria Review Task Force to review the ACME Criteria for Programmatic Pre/Accreditation of Midwifery Education Programs. Consistent with our ACME Strategic Goal 3: Expand diversity and inclusion in all ACME operations; ACME is interested in using this review to place all criteria under a diversity lens. Interested volunteers must have experience with ACME accredited midwifery education programs and are familiar with the ACME criteria for accreditation of midwifery programs. Ideal candidates are midwifery program directors, midwifery faculty members, ACME Board of Review members, and Senior ACME Site Visitors. If you are interested please submit a letter of interest and a CV to Heather L. Maurer, ACME Executive Director, hmaurer@acnm.org.

ACME Board of Review Seeks a Public Member

See the message below from Dr. Gretchen Mettler, Chair of the Board of Review for details for the public member role on the Board of Review. We need your assistance in helping share this opportunity with those who may be interested.

ACME ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP

There is still time to register for the [ACME Workshop on May 21, 2017 at the ACNM Annual Meeting in Chicago](#). Join us for the Maximizing Educational Quality through the ACME Criteria workshop. To register visit, <http://annualmeeting.midwife.org/>.



ACME Board of Review Chair, Gretchen Mettler's Message

ACME BOR Seeks a Public Member

The BOR has a great volunteer opportunity for a public member. Please assist me in sharing this opportunity with anyone who may be interested.

The ACME Board of Review (BOR) is seeking an individual to serve as a public member on its Board. The BOR is the unit within ACME whose responsibility is the evaluation of nurse-midwifery/midwifery education programs for the purpose of

Gretchen G. Mettler,
CNM, PhD, FACNM
Chair, ACME Board of
Review

granting pre/accreditation status and monitoring the programs' continued compliance with pre/accreditation standards/criteria. The BOR is committed to the consistent application and enforcement of ACME criteria. There are two meetings a year and on average four to six programs to review per

meeting.

Public members are selected based on the following criteria:

- a) Does not derive any income from the practice of midwifery
- b) Commitment to preparation of well qualified health care providers for women and children
- c) Possesses knowledge and skills complementary to the purpose of the BOR
- d) Is familiar with the accreditation process
- e) Has a commitment to attend meetings and conference calls as necessary
- f) Is able to communicate electronically
- g) A person is ineligible to be a public member if she/he has a real or perceived conflict of interest related to the work of ACME.

This includes an individual who is:

1. A CNM/CM
2. An employee of ACNM, AMCB, A.C.N.M. Foundation
3. An employee of ACME, member of the BOC
4. An employee, a member of the governing board, a current owner, shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either is pre/accredited by ACME or has applied for pre/accreditation
5. A member of any trade association or membership organization related to, affiliated with, or associated with ACME
6. A spouse, parent, child, or sibling of an individual identified in section 1) or 2) or 3) or 4) of this definition.

Thank you for your assistance in helping spread the word about this opportunity. For full description, qualifications, and requirements, please visit [the ACME webpage](#). If you know of someone who might be a fit please share this information.

US MERA Update

ACME continues to participate in US MERA leadership as members of the Steering Committee. A detailed description of the current work of the midwifery collaboration can be found in the 2016 Leadership Annual Meeting report found on the US MERA website, www.usmera.org. The report details US MERA's strategic priorities and post-meeting actions.

Organizational restructuring of US MERA has been accomplished to systematically address ongoing and time-sensitive issues that impact midwifery education, regulation, and practice. The new organizational structure will increase opportunities for members and stakeholders of the associations represented in US MERA to participate in task forces to study issues affecting midwifery education, regulation, and practice, and make recommendations to the Steering Committee for action.

This update is provided by Pamela Reis, PhD, CNM, ACME Board of Commissioners, who serves as the ACME US MERA Representative on the US MERA Steering Committee.



Pamela Reis, PhD, CNM,
NPP-BC, ACME Board of
Commissioner



From the ACME Executive Director, Heather L. Maurer, MA

May is the month for mothers and midwives. Happy International Day of the Midwife and Happy Mothers Day!

For those of you coming to the ACNM's annual meeting in Chicago, I look forward to seeing you. ACME is holding a [full day accreditation workshop, Maximizing Educational Quality through the ACME Criteria](#) on Sunday, May 21 and an invitation only **ACME Volunteer Round Table** discussion for all ACME volunteers on Monday, May 22. I hope to see you at one of these events and I look forward to connecting with you at the meeting.

I am pleased to congratulate and thank the following ACME volunteers and midwifery program directors for a variety of appointments, promotions and accomplishments.

Carol Gisselquist (ACME Board of Commissioners, Public Member) has served as an ACME volunteer for over 20 years, our longest serving member. Carol lives in Hershey, PA and has served as the public member on the Board of Review and the Board of Commissioners. Her contributions to ACME include a full criteria review, policy and procedures review, as well as participating in a U.S. Department of Education petition for renewed recognition. Her commitment to ACME has been tremendous and her attention to detail invaluable to the organization. Carol played a significant role in on boarding me to my role as Executive Director and I am forever grateful. Carol's term ends at the conclusion of the ACME BOC Board meeting to be held in May. There will be a special article recognizing Carol and her contributions to ACME to be published in the ACME Summer newsletter issue.

Thank you to **Susan Stone** (former ACME Board of Commissioners member and Chair) who has served as the ACME Advisory Committee Chair and must step down as she was elected to be ACNM's next president. Congratulations Sue! **Kathy Carmacho Carr** (former ACME Board of Commissioners member) joins the ACME Advisory Board as its new chair.

Ronald Hunt, (former ACME Board of Commissioners public member) of the ACME Board of Review, joins the ACME Board of Commissioners as the public member.

Becky Bagley, (ACME site visitor) who has been promoted to senior site visitor on the ACME Site Visitor Panel.

Deborah Walker, joins the ACME Board of Review.

Mary Jane Lewitt, joins the ACME Site Visitor Panel.

[Fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives](#) (FACNM) is an honor bestowed upon those midwives whose demonstrated leadership, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement have merited special recognition both within and outside of the midwifery profession. FACNM represents the commitment of the ACNM to honor our own. The following ACME Volunteers will be inducted into the ACNM Fellowship at the May 2017 ACNM Annual Meeting in Chicago:

Pamela Reis, (ACME Board of Commissioners)

Rebecca Bagley (ACME Senior Site Visitor)

Melissa Saftner (ACME Site Visitor)

Gretchen Mettler, (ACME Board of Review, Chair) was appointed to the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Cleveland Heights City Council for a three year term. There are 22 citizens appointed to the Committee and they review applications from community organizations for Federal Block Grant money. Effective June 30, Gretchen is resigning as the midwifery program director for Case Western Reserve University. She will be going to 35% at the FPB School of Nursing, while going up to 65% clinical work for the next academic year.

Melissa Avery (ACME Board of Commissioners, Vice President) is the co-author of, *Freestanding Birth Centers: Innovation, Evidence, Optimal Outcomes*. Cole, L.J. & Avery, M.D. Eds. (2017). Spring Publishing Company, NY. This newly published book will be available at the ACNM Annual Meeting in Chicago and in [ACNM's bookstore](#) this month.

Nicole A. Rouhana, (ACME Site Visitor) is one of four midwives who won this year's ACNM Immunization Champion Awards for their exemplary work of promoting or fostering maternal immunizations in their practice or communities.

Ruth Mielke, (Program Director at Cal State Fullerton) is joining the ACNM Board of Directors as a representative from her region.

Call For 3rd Party Comment

In accordance with *ACME Policies and Procedures Manual*, and the U.S. Department of Education's requirements, ACME is seeking written third-party comment concerning the qualifications for accreditation of the following listed midwifery programs. The programs listed below will be reviewed for renewal of accreditation at the February 2018 ACME Board of Review meeting. Upon request, comments will be considered confidential.

Your comments will be included with other program materials undergoing review February 2018. In all instances, your comments must directly relate to the continuing accreditation of a program and the *ACME Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation*, (December 2009, Revised June 2013, April 2015). This document may be found at www.midwife.org/Accreditation under ACME Documents. Please cite the particular criterion of concern in your comments.

Deadline: July 15, 2017

All written comments should be sent to the attention of Heather L. Maurer, ACME Executive Director, hmaurer@acnm.org, or mailed to ACME at 8403 Colesville Rd., Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Midwifery programs soliciting comment:

- **Baystate Medical Center**, Post Graduate Certificate
- **Stony Brook University**, DNP, MS, Post Graduate Certificate
- **Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center**, MSN, Post Graduate Certificate

Recent Accreditation and Education News & Headlines

[Who Defines Expertise?](#) by Collen Flaherty, May 2, 2017, *Inside Higher Education*

Accreditor's new rules are forcing a professor who has taught philosophy for 50 years to stop doing so, because her Ph.D. is in English. Many object. Accreditors sometimes adjust their standards to improve educational quality, and that's what the Higher Learning Commission hoped to achieve by requiring that professors teach only within their fields of expertise, as defined by their advanced degrees. But the recent change raises questions about how to define expertise and how it can be earned – questions that are at the heart of an ongoing debate at Wayne State College in Nebraska.

[Elizabeth Warren to Accrediting Agencies: Step Up](#)

by Jamaal Abdul-Alim, February 1, 2017, *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*

Arguing that millions of federal tax dollars and the futures of low-income students are at stake, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., on Wednesday called for accrediting agencies to play a more active role in fighting fraud, waste and abuse in higher education. Don't sit on your hands as states and the federal government go after schools for fraud," Warren told approximately 400 attendees at the annual conference of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or CHEA. Rather, Warren said, accrediting agencies should be more aggressive and work with the federal government to share information and determine if schools are cheating students. "You're supposed to be the ones on the front lines here," Warren said.

[Rubio Reintroduces Accreditation Bill](#)

by Paul Fain, March 15, 2017, *Inside Higher Ed*

Senators Marco Rubio and Michael Bennet this week reintroduced a bill that would create an alternative accreditation pathway. The proposed legislation would give previously unaccredited institutions access to federal financial aid under a five-year pilot program. Providers, including new ones, would be eligible for aid through contracts with the U.S. Department of Education, but only if they can demonstrate quality through positive student outcomes, the two senators said in a written statement. Rubio has been both outspoken and in the weeds with his interest in accreditation. During his recent campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, Rubio called the current higher education system a "cartel" he would bust with an alternative accreditation pathway for high-quality, low-cost competitors. The return of the legislation he had proposed with Bennet, a Colorado Democrat, suggests that the Florida Republican will continue to push on the accreditation issue. "America needs a 21st-century higher education system that embraces all the new ways people can learn and acquire skills without having to go the traditional four-year college degree track," Rubio said in the statement. "To modernize our higher education system, we must end the status quo

table curriculum statement. To modernize our higher education system, we must create state quality accreditation system, which stifles competition, fuels soaring tuition costs and limits opportunities for nontraditional students, such as working parents. The alternative accreditation system we've proposed is built on higher quality standards and outcomes than the current accreditation system, and would mark an important first step toward shaking up a higher education system that leaves too many people with tons of student loan debt and without degrees that lead to good-paying jobs."

[DeVos Urged to Restore Loan Servicing Protection](#)

by Andrew Kreighbaum, April 27, 2017, *Inside Higher Education*

130 plus democratic lawmakers called on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos Wednesday to reinstate consumer protections for student borrowers in federal contracts with loan servicers. Democrats, including Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and Washington Senator Patty Murray, the ranking Democrat on the Senate education committee, said DeVos's decision to rescind the previous guidance raised questions about how the department will hold servicers accountable and protect the rights of borrowers.

Calling All Program Directors-Share your Program's Photos and Recent News:

If your program is featured in a news article or publication we want to hear about it. ACME volunteers if you receive an award or are appointed please let us know. We are also interested in featuring photos of your students and midwifery program. Please contact ACME Executive Director, Heather Maurer at hmaurer@acnm.org for more details.

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