NASASPS 2016 Annual Conference
Austin, Texas
April 10-13, 2016
Preliminary Agenda

Sunday, April 10

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  NASASPS Board and Committee Meetings
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.  Conference Registration Open
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.  Welcome and Orientation to NASASPS for First Time Attendees
5:45 - 6:45 p.m.  Speed Networking
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  Opening Reception & Welcome

Monday, April 11

8:00 a.m.  Registration
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.  Opening Remarks & Conference Welcome
9:15 - 10:30 a.m.  Catch Me If You Can (and They Did): Diploma Mills, Accreditation Mills and Others: Press, and others, called Axact the ‘World’s Largest Diploma Mill’, possibly selling over 220,000 high school and college diplomas to buyers in 17 countries since its founding in 1997. Some buyers paid $399, others paid $200,000-$400,000. Total revenues may approach one billion dollars, flowing through 35 bank accounts in 19 countries. Counterfeit documents, including U.S. State Dept. Apostille Attestations were used, and after 5/17/15 expose’ by New York Times, these counterfeit documents and over 2.2 million diplomas were seized during raids by Pakistan federal authorities. Axact is truly a candidate for ‘Ripley’s Believe It or Not’. This story continues today……

11:00 a.m. - Noon:  Regulation 101: Join Alan Contreras for a look at everything regulators and institutions need to know about the world of post-secondary education regulation.
Noon - 1:30 p.m.  Welcome Luncheon
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions:

Crucial Connections: Emerging Trends and Best Practices:
Join ACCSC for a discussion on the emerging trends in higher education oversight; to include a conversation on how increased transparency is helping students and regulators to make more informed decisions; an overview of how the third party validation continues to develop and grow in importance, and to identify some of the challenges and opportunities facing the regulatory triad going forward.

Should Your Website Be Working Harder?: Find out how your website could be helping you better manage time, keep schools informed, and how to apply simple tools and principles to get the most out of your site.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions:

Playing Nice: Building Interagency Relationships in the Regulatory Arena: Chaos can ensue when multiple agencies regulate an institution. This session will address the problems from the state regulator’s point of view. It will address the challenges and offer some solutions from one state’s experiences (Virginia’s). The session will include time dedicated for other states to share their experiences.

SARA: Understanding the GAPS: It is important to understand that now that SARA has such a large amount of participation, institutions must remain vigilant in their efforts to know what gaps still remain for compliance. Non-degree institutions, professional licensure programs, GE rules, federal misrepresentation rules, and international regulations will all be discussed.

4:15 - 5:00 p.m.  NASASPS Business Meetings (open to all members)

Tuesday, April 12
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  What’s Next for Institutions Under the Gainful Employment Rules: This session will focus on the next twelve months in the GE cycle (April 2016 through April 2017). During this period, schools will confront median debt challenges, alternative earnings surveys, the first round of rate results, and enhanced GE disclosures. Presenters will discuss these events and the latest ED guidance.
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:

**Alternative Providers: "Uber"-izing Education:** Uber is essentially an unregulated taxi service. As their drivers and passengers find, existing outside of regulations has benefits and drawbacks. Similarly, new organizations providing instruction, badges, credentials are emerging. Like Uber, many see themselves as internet-related innovators existing outside of the regulatory sphere. What are the implications?

**Information Overload: The Current State of Student Consumer Disclosures:** There has been a significant increase in the amount of information that schools are required to give to students as part of the enrollment process. This increased information has overwhelmed many students. The presentation will review the current state of student disclosures and discuss possible solutions to the information overload.

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Regulator, Accreditors and USDOE Partnership Lunch**

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:

**Listserv LIVE! (regulators only):** Live from Austin, it’s Listserv LIVE! A session dedicated to state regulators, draw on experience of colleges through interactive discussion of topics and challenges we all face. Discussions will focus on selected topics of high relevance with time available for an open forum to discuss additional topics of interest.

**Living in a SARA World--Remaining in Compliance:** This session will provide a guide for what SARA does and does not cover. We will discuss how to gain the most access for your programs as well as how to remain in compliance with professional licensure programs. Also, how to be a non-SARA institution in a SARA state.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Regulator/Institution Speed Networking:** Institutions and regulators will have the opportunity to meet and discuss the status of post-secondary regulation in each state.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. **NASASPS Annual Meeting (open to regular members only)**

**Wednesday, April 13**

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. **The Status and Impact of State Authorization Requirements and Reciprocity Agreements:** Receive national and regional updates on the nationwide State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and its evolving interaction with state authorization
requirements. Processes by which states and their institutions can join SARA will be shared and discussed. Variations in rates and levels of participation in SARA across the nation will be discussed as they relate to and affect state-level and institutional level decision-making with regard to joining SARA and managing state authorizations.

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. SARA: It’s Working... We Think: The AZ SARA Council is one state’s unique response to SARA. Join us as we discuss SARA from paper concept to a functioning council. Topics include: legislation, formation, implementation, challenges, future projections and the relationship between AZ SARA and the state regulatory body working collaboratively for institutional oversight and consumer protection.

11:45 a.m. - Noon Closing Remarks & Conference Adjournment