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For Immediate Release:  
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## **DEAC Announces Annual Business Meeting**

In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the *Bylaws* of the Distance Education and Training Council (doing business as the Distance Education Accrediting Commission), notice is given to all members that the Annual Business Meeting will take place at approximately 3:45 PM on Monday, April 24, 2023 at the La Fonda on the Plaza hotel in Santa Fe, NM. The *Bylaws* state that the Corporation shall meet annually to elect Directors from its membership, to receive annual committee reports, and to transact other business. The Annual Business Meeting is open to all members.

*(Please Note: Attendance at the Annual Business Meeting is limited to representatives from institutions currently accredited by DEAC.)*

### **Board of Director Elections to Commence at Annual Business Meeting**

The DEAC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for the DEAC Board of Directors:

**Robert Frankel**

*Chief Academic Officer, Genesis University &  
National Tax Training School*

**Amanda Harrison, M.Ed**

*Chief Operating Officer, Cummings  
Graduate Institute for Behavioral Health  
Studies*

**Janet Perry**

*Vice President of Academics  
and Compliance,  
Weston Distance Learning*

The Nominating Committee has worked closely with the Board of Directors to review and recommend candidates for the DEAC Board of Directors to serve as institution representatives. Throughout its deliberations, the Nominating Committee took into consideration the appropriate involvement of DEAC's communities of interest as well as the diversity of DEAC's membership and stakeholders. In addition, the Nominating Committee's work involved a meaningful assessment of the organization's present and future leadership needs reflective of mission; attention to continuity and orderly succession of the organization's leadership; and upholding a practice of good governance.

DEAC is holding this election to fill positions that were held by Gordon Drummond, President, Sessions College for Professional Design, and Cheryl Hayek, Chief Academic Officer, The Art of Education University, when their terms expire on March 31, 2023.

An electronic ballot will be available to all DEAC members beginning Monday, April 24, 2023 at the close of the Annual Business Meeting, and continuing through 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 25, 2023. Each DEAC-accredited institution represented at the Business Meeting is entitled to one vote. Attending the Annual Business Meeting and participating in the election is a way institution members can participate in the continuity or orderly succession of DEAC's leadership and uphold a practice of good governance. Background information for the Board of Directors candidates is provided [at the end of this release](#).

### **ABOUT DEAC**

*The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1926 that operates as a national accreditor of distance education institutions. DEAC's primary goal is to ensure a high standard of educational quality in the distance education institutions it accredits.*

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# Robert Frankel

Candidate – Institution Member  
DEAC Board of Directors



My interest in distance education stretches back almost 30 years ago to a time when I began to seek out options for my own college education. I ended up with a mix of traditional classroom courses, along with some good old correspondence courses, CLEP exams, and eventually online courses too.

Eventually I went on to earn an MBA, got to candidate status in a PhD program in Business Administration, and I'm now working on my dissertation for an EdD in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

My experiences as a student, and fascination with distance education, eventually led me to create what became known as Genesis University. About 20 years ago I learned about the DEAC, found a there was an accredited school, National Tax Training School, in a nearby town, which I was later asked to acquire. I volunteered at the school, got involved in preparing for an upcoming accreditation visit. I started attending DEAC workshops and conferences, and over the last decade I had the pleasure to serve as the educational or business standards evaluator on numerous site visits.

Over the last few years Accreditation and distance education always seem to be in the news. We need accreditation standards and policies that protect member schools, but also need to be able to adapt to the needs of students, institutions, changing technologies, and educational theory and philosophy. I hope that I can draw on my experiences, knowledge, and skills, to help the DEAC and its member institutions to continue to grow and adapt as needed.



## Amanda Harrison

Candidate – Institution Member  
DEAC Board of Directors



Amanda Harrison, M.Ed is the Chief Operating Officer for the Cummings Graduate Institute for Behavioral Health Studies (CGI), where she oversees institutional operations, institutional finances, human resources, IT operations, compliance, and student services. Her passion for higher education stems from its potential to positively change the trajectory of students' lives. She views accreditation as higher education's best mechanism for quality assurance, transparency, and continuous improvement. During her seven years at CGI, she has overseen the accreditation process that resulted in CGI receiving a grant of initial accreditation in 2019 and renewal of accreditation in 2022. Since that time, she has completed DEAC training and participates as an evaluator for DEAC onsite visits and serves as a member of the Standards Committee. She attends every DEAC Annual Conference and Fall Workshop to collaborate with peers and connect with new participants seeking to navigate DEAC's rigorous accreditation process.

Amanda believes that, in the same way students achieve self-discovery and improvement through their studies, accreditation provides an opportunity for institutional introspection and growth. She believes that her talents and experiences can promote and further DEAC's mission, ensuring that its accredited institutions and, ultimately, students experience success. scopes, and its willingness to accommodate the unique operational structure of institutions.



## Janet Perry

Candidate – Institution Member  
DEAC Board of Directors



I have been involved in adult education for my entire career, with the majority of that time at Weston Distance Learning (a DEAC-accredited school since 2005). I am currently Weston's Vice President of Academics and Compliance and previously served in several roles that provided me with leadership experience in operations, curriculum development, warehousing, human resources, compliance, admissions, call center, instruction, student services, graduate services, and registrar functions. Prior to Weston, I was a pre-college teacher for a U.S. Army education contractor, where I also completed an adult pedagogy practicum. I also served as a government contractor teaching basic skills to incarcerated military

members and taught GED preparation courses. This comprehensive experience enables me to apply a holistic approach as an educator, site evaluator, and standards committee member.

I serve as an education standards evaluator on DEAC site visits and am at the end of my second three-year term as a DEAC Standards Committee member. These experiences have taught me that thoughtful oversight and school individuality allow DEAC and its schools to thrive. It is important to preserve each school's ability to meet its individual mission while also ensuring standards meet Department of Education requirements and appropriately protect all stakeholders.

I would like to bring my experience and passion for distance education and its students to the Commission. As the leading distance education accreditor, the DEAC facilitates an ongoing process of institutional improvement, provides a framework for measuring education quality, and values the individuality of its schools. During my tenure on the Standards Committee and throughout my career at Weston, I have realized how important accreditation is to our success. The experience I have gained in various educator roles as well as my service to the DEAC through its Standards Committee and site visit teams provide me with a well-rounded experience to serve on the Commission.

