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## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release:  
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### **DEAC Announces Call for Nominations to Serve on the Board of Directors**

The DEAC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that it is seeking nominations of potential candidates for election to serve on the DEAC Board of Directors which also serves as the Commission.

The committee is seeking candidates to fill two public member positions currently held by Dr. Wanda Nitsch and Mike Harter whose terms are expiring on March 31, 2024. Article IV, Section 5 of the *DEAC Bylaws* states that the election of Directors representing the public shall be held at the last Directors' meeting of the fiscal year. The open public member terms are for three years and will commence on April 1, 2024, after elections take place at the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for January 2024.

Two current institution representatives, Stephen Haas, Education Director and Chief Academic Officer at National Paralegal College and Tracey Abell, President of American College of Healthcare Sciences are completing their first terms as Commissioners and are eligible to seek re-election for a subsequent three-year term. The Nominating Committee welcomes additional eligible institution representatives to submit their candidacy applications.

The call for nominations is open now and will continue until October 31, 2023. DEAC invites interested candidates to submit their credentials for consideration using the DEAC's [online submission form](#). More information about candidate qualifications and the significant responsibilities associated with working on the DEAC Board of Directors is available on the following pages.

The nominating committee is deeply committed to identifying, recruiting, and recommending the highest quality nominees who represent the organization's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and who respect a rich spectrum of educational offerings, culture, skills and experience across DEAC-accredited institutions. Working with the Board of Directors, the nominating committee is dedicated to assuring adequate representation and balance of expertise in the governance and leadership of DEAC.

#### **ABOUT DEAC**

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1926 that operates as a national accreditor of distance education institutions.

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## **DEAC Board of Directors Candidate Qualifications**

In identifying qualified candidates, the Nominating Committee seeks to assure that the composition of the Directors adheres to Article IV, Section 3 of the *Bylaws*. At least two (2) Directors must be academics defined by the Corporation as a person who works full time in an educational institution who actively teaches, delivers educational content to learners, or engages in educational research related to the institution's mission. At least two (2) Directors must be administrators defined by the Corporation as a person currently or recently directly engaged in a significant manner in the administration of an institution.

### **Public Member Qualifications**

The DEAC is seeking public member candidates with strong skills and expertise in higher education, distance learning, non-profit governance, and federal/state regulation structures as well as general knowledge of higher education accreditation. In addition, individuals interested in candidacy for a public member position on the board of directors must minimally:

1. Have an interest in distance education and quality assurance/quality improvement.
2. Have an interest in public service.
3. Possess the capacity to receive, review and evaluate electronically prepared materials prior to and during all meetings and conference calls. The board of directors carries out all its functions using electronically prepared materials.
4. Commit to allocating time for preparations, travel requirements, and full engagement needed for board meetings.
5. Have previous committee or board experience or volunteer experience in accreditation and distance education.

### **Institution Member Qualifications**

Individuals interested in candidacy for an institution representative position on the Board of Directors must minimally:

1. Represent a DEAC-accredited institution in good standing with DEAC as well as with any other accrediting organization or state or federal regulatory agency.
2. Represent a DEAC-accredited institution that completed at least one cycle to renew accreditation.
3. Possess at least five (5) years of experience in a senior leadership role (academic or administrative) at a DEAC-accredited institution.
4. Demonstrate experience as a DEAC evaluator
5. Demonstrate knowledge and application of learning theories, instructional design, educational technology, and outcomes-based assessment in distance education.
6. Possess the capacity to receive, review and evaluate electronically prepared materials prior to and during all meetings and conference calls. The Board of Directors carries out all its functions using electronically prepared materials.
7. Commit to allocating time for preparations, travel requirements, and full engagement needed for board meetings.

## **Commitment to the DEAC Board of Directors**

Serving on the DEAC Board of Directors requires a significant commitment of time to effectively support the DEAC mission and the process of accreditation. The annual schedule of activities includes attendance at two (2) three-day accreditation decision meetings per year, participation in typically four (4) conference call meetings per year, and committee work in one or more of the Directors' policy and governance areas. Meetings require significant advance preparation as each member of the Board contributes to accreditation decision-making and good governance. On average, directors spend 15-20 hours per week for three weeks to fully prepare for an accreditation decision meeting. Committee responsibilities require an additional 8 to 10 hours of preparation for conference call meetings or in-person committee meetings. In addition to making meticulous preparations for meetings and calls, board members must maintain high standards of integrity, honesty, impartiality, and fidelity to the standards of accreditation in order to carry out the board's essential work. All Directors are required to comply with DEAC's conflict of interest policies.