

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **New Member Appointed to DEAC Board of Directors**

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) is pleased to announce that Ms. Tracey Abell, President, American College of Healthcare Sciences, has been appointed to the DEAC Board of Directors. The Commission elected to use its authority under Article IV, Section 8 of the *Bylaws* to appoint Ms. Abell to a partial term that commences immediately and continues through March 31, 2024.

“The Board of Directors and I are pleased to welcome Tracey,” said Leah Matthews, Executive Director and CEO of DEAC. “She will add tremendous value to the organization with her education leadership experience across a broad spectrum of higher education responsibilities.”

Ms. Abell has more than 20 years of experience in online higher education management. Her career has focused on managing complex projects, including institutional eligibility and administration of Title IV student financial aid programs, academic program development, and navigating multi-state finance, legal disclosure, and academic regulations.

“As DEAC Commissioners, institutional representatives and public members work collaboratively to make a positive impact in service of students with a commitment to integrity and innovation,” said Ms. Abell. “I am honored to serve DEAC in this role and support institutions to promote access to education and academic quality through the accreditation process.”

Tracey earned a BS in Business Management from Western Governors University, and an MS in Education with a specialization in Leadership in Higher Education from Capella University. She is committed to promoting access to higher education and student outcomes through innovative online programming that meets the needs of post-traditional learners, and has been actively involved in DEAC as a Business Standards and Title IV evaluator and as a speaker at DEAC Accreditation Workshops since 2014.

#### **ABOUT DEAC**

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1926 that operates as a national accreditor of distance education institutions. DEAC’s goal is to ensure a high standard of educational quality in the distance education institutions it accredits and a quality education for the students who study at its accredited institutions.

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