

Dear NACIQI Colleagues:

November 22, 2011

I write to express my concern over the possible recommendations emerging from the NACIQI draft report.

I recognize these are complex issues and there are many policy questions interwoven in the discussion. However I want to limit my comments to the core issue in my mind---should eligibility for Title IV funds stay linked to regional accreditation? My answer is an emphatic "yes!" In saying this I draw upon my 16 years of experience as a campus president and my 5 years as a Chancellor, with 7 presidents currently reporting to me.

My experience tells me the following:

- Presidents and campuses take accreditation seriously.
- Presidents and campuses are very aware of the quality standards and use them as means to improve the academic experience of students.
- If Title IV and accreditation are unlinked, you would take away both the carrot and the stick from regional accreditation.
- That would undermine a system that is not broken, although it needs to continue to evolve.

I believe regional accreditors are responsive to the policy concerns of parents, students, and governmental leaders. Accreditation continues to improve. Staying on this path and pushing regional accreditors to continually move forward is the wisest solution to the issues at hand. (Options 16 and 17 are helpful to that end.)

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this critical issue.

Sincerely,
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