

To: COAPRT Accredited Programs, Visitors, and Stakeholders

From: Syd Sklar, Ph.D., CTRS
Chairperson, Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions

Re: Fall 2019 COAPRT Memo

Date: October 31, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions completed its separation from the National Recreation and Park Association and became an independent organization, incorporated in the State of Washington, effective July 1, 2019. The Council thanks NRPA for its support of the transition and its ongoing collaboration.

Additionally, the Council recognizes the following organizations for their generous one-time donations to support the Council's startup as an independent entity: Illinois Park and Recreation Association; Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation; American Institute of Park Executives/Academy Foundation Board; and Missouri Recreation and Park Association.

COAPRT is also pleased to announce it has contracted with Red Barn Communications, LLC, to provide accreditation management services. Please take note of the following information updates:

- COAPRT's main point of contact is COAPRT Operations Manager Larry Otos.
- Email: COAPRT@accreditationcouncil.org
- Website: <https://accreditationcouncil.org/>

The Council held its spring meeting on May 23, 2019 by conference call and held its fall meeting and hearings in conjunction with the 2019 NRPA Congress in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 22, 2019. The actions taken by Council are outlined below:

COAPRT Council Members:

Council Officers for 2019-2020 are Sydney Sklar, Chair; Doug Kennedy and Patti Freeman, Vice-Chairs; and Chris Nunes, Secretary/Treasurer

The Council welcomes new members Kara Kish and Sonya R. Shaw and congratulates Gary Ellis and Sydney Sklar on their reappointment for a second term on Council which expires at the conclusion of the Fall 2022 Council meeting.

James Worsley and Charles Shefelton have completed their service on the Council and are thanked for their service.

Jason Bocarro will step down from his Educator Representative position in November 2019. The Council thanks him for his service. A [Call for Nominations for Educator Representative](#) was announced and posted on the Council website.

Council Status:

There are 71 accredited programs.

Council Action:

At the fall 2019 meeting, COAPRT conducted 5 hearings for reaccreditation:

- Central Michigan University: Recreation and Event Management; Therapeutic Recreation; Outdoor and Environmental Recreation
- California State University--Chico: Recreation, Hospitality and Parks Management
- Kent State University: Recreation, Parks and Tourism Management
- California State University—Long Beach: Recreation Management; Recreation Therapy
- Longwood University: Therapeutic Recreation

The following programs are scheduled for a 2020 review:

- Southern Connecticut State University (initial accreditation)
- Appalachian State University
- Arkansas Tech University

Hearing Format:

- Council used video conferencing for the first time to conduct three hearings during the fall 2019 meeting. The format was deemed successful.
- Council is committed to using video and teleconferencing as an effective cost-savings to programs under review. The Council is working to make video conferencing the primary format for hearings in the future.

Training:

- Council held a face-to-face program/visitor training in conjunction with the NRPA Annual Congress in Baltimore on September 24, 2019.
- An online training for programs preparing to write a self-study took place on October 10, 2019.
- A face-to-face visitor training will take place in conjunction with [The Academy of Leisure Sciences \(TALS\) Conference on Research and Teaching](#) on February 12, 2020, 5-6:30 p.m. Individuals interested in attending should register for the TALS Conference. For a description of the training, visit the [COAPRT Website](#).
- As a cost-savings to trainees and programs, COAPRT remains committed to offering online training opportunities regularly.
- More information on training opportunities is available on the [COAPRT website](#).

Website Updates:

- The COAPRT website Accredited Programs Directory was recently updated. The directory now displays program accreditation by category (e.g. Core; Therapeutic Recreation; Outdoor Recreation). Additionally, Annual Report data is displayed for each COAPRT accredited program within a given institution. For example, if an institution's core and therapeutic recreation program are both accredited, both sets of Annual Report data are displayed.
- The COAPRT Handbook is currently under revision. An updated handbook is expected to be posted to the COAPRT website by November 1, 2019. Handbook revisions are expected to reflect the Council's transition to an independent organization, simplify self-study submission procedures, and improve other efficiencies related to accreditation/reaccreditation. Programs scheduled for a visit in spring 2020 are permitted to follow the policies and procedures of the previous version of the COAPRT Handbook, updated in 2014. The updated handbook will be posted [here](#).

Accreditation Fee Update

To secure a fiscally responsible and sustainable future, Council updated its fees. Although the fee update represents a modest increase, the overall impact of the increase is negated by the elimination of travel requirements to hearings and trainings, which are now offered via video conferencing. Despite the fee increase, overall costs to programs will decrease.

Effective immediately, the current fees are:

- Annual Fee: \$900 (Due March 1, 2020)
- Formal Application and Continuing Accreditation Application Fee: \$1,900

Standards Updates

The five-year training requirement in Standard 1.06 was updated. The standard now reads:

1.06 Each program seeking accreditation shall employ at least one individual as a faculty member who has completed formal COAPRT training no less than three years prior to submission of the self-study.

The website referenced in Standard 3.06 was updated to point to the correct web page on CHEA's updated website. The correct address is <https://www.chea.org/degree-accreditation-mills>. The standard now reads:

3.06 The program has a practice of informing the public about the harm of degree mills and accreditation mills.

Expected Evidence of Compliance: The following statement must appear on the program's website:

Important Information Regarding Degree Mills

Please watch this important video (<http://youtu.be/a1voHNMQDrk>) regarding degree and accreditation mills. According to CHEA, "Degree mills and accreditation mills mislead and harm. In the United States, degrees and certificates from mills may not be acknowledged by other institutions when students seek to transfer or go to graduate school. Employers may not

acknowledge degrees and certificates from degree mills when providing tuition assistance for continuing education. "Accreditation" from an accreditation mill can mislead students and the public about the quality of an institution. In the presence of degree mills and accreditation mills, students may spend a good deal of money and receive neither an education nor a useable credential." Read more on CHEA's website (<https://www.chea.org/degree-accreditation-mills>).

Upcoming Business Meetings

- January 2020, video conference
- April 2020, video conference
- October 2020, Orlando, FL

Thank you for your interest in COAPRT accreditation.

2019 - 2020 COAPRT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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