



ABHES BULLETIN

To: ABHES Accredited Institutions and Programs and Interested Parties

From: Florence Tate, Executive Director

Date: April 16, 2018

Subject: Commissioner Appointment and Election Results

ABHES is pleased to announce the appointment or election of the below individuals to serve a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2018. ABHES wishes to thank all who ran in this year's appointment and election. Your desire to serve ABHES in this most important manner is greatly appreciated!

Appointment Results

Mr. Douglas Clarke has been appointed to the Public Member seat by the ABHES Commission to serve his first 3-year term.

Mr. Douglas Clarke is the Executive Director, Accreditation Programs at ClearHealth Quality Institute. He spent 21 years of his career in higher education as a faculty member, Chief Academic Officer, and an accrediting agency staff member. From 2008 to 2015, Mr. Clarke worked at the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) where he managed the pre-accreditation and accreditation activities for all physical therapy assistant (PTA) education programs.

Mr. Clarke holds a Master of Education from Concordia University and a Bachelor of Arts from the College of William and Mary.

Mr. Craig Pfannenstiehl has been reappointed to the Commissioner-at-Large seat by the ABHES Commission to serve a second 3-year term.

Mr. Pfannenstiehl is the President and CEO of Educor, Inc. in Boston. He served as President of Bay State College a regionally accredited college in Boston with over 1,200 students from 2006 until 2015. During that time, Mr. Pfannenstiehl spearheaded the reorganization of the college management team; initiated and managed the development of the College's first three fully integrated strategic plans; developed the school's strategy for online programs; expanded to a new campus in Taunton, MA; and, oversaw its transition into the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in 2008 and then later oversaw the ten year re-accreditation process in 2013. He also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Harrison College headquartered in Indiana.

Mr. Pfannenstiehl holds a Master's in Business Administration from Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts and Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Hobart College, Geneva, New York.

Dr. Rafael Ramirez-Rivera has been appointed to the Public Members seat by the ABHES Commission to serve his first 3-year term.

Dr. Rafael Ramirez-Rivera is the current Chancellor of Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo Campus. His career includes serving as a Commissioner for the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and various committees and boards for the Puerto Rico Council for Higher Education (PRCHE). Dr. Ramirez-Rivera has participated on more than 100 institutional reviews with PRCHE, licensing and accrediting agencies, several state agencies, and regional and national commission on accreditation organizations in the United States, South America, and Europe.

He holds his Doctoral degree in Educational Administration from Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Master in Arts and Bachelor in Arts in Economics from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

Dr. Ravi Rathnam has been reappointed to the Higher Education Specialist seat by the ABHES Commission to serve his first 3-year term.

Dr. Rathnam has been committed to advancing excellence for students, supporting educators, and improving academic outcomes. He currently serves as the University Director for Health Sciences at Stratford University, Falls Church, Virginia and shares an instructional philosophy of helping students gain skills and confidence, through a competency based, student-centered environment. Dr. Rathnam has served ABHES since 2012 as a program specialist, administrative team lead, distance education evaluator, appeals panelist, and a member of the Standards Review Committee. He has presented his research on “Enhancing Affective Learning Outcomes through the Use of Objective Structured Clinical Examinations” and “The Effects of Role Play on Team Training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.” He has worked with the Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU) and the Higher Education Act (HEA) taskforce to develop legislative recommendations on teach outs, the development of articulation agreements, and cohort default rates.

Dr. Rathnam holds a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree and a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA).

Election Results

Mr. Matthew Calhoun has been re-elected by the ABHES-accredited institutions and programs to serve his first 3-year term. He fills the Administrator in a Healthcare Related area seat.

Mr. Calhoun has worked in higher education for 16 years since graduating from Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Fifteen of those years have been dedicated to the students of Arizona College. After completion of a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, he was promoted to Campus Director and later to Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & Student Finance which is the position he currently holds. Matt has served ABHES as a team leader for many accreditation visits, has sat on the ABHES conference committee since 2010, and the Preliminary Review Committee from 2011 - 2017.

Ms. Effie Dubis has been re-elected by the ABHES-accredited institution and programs to serve a second 3-year term. She fills the Administrator in a Healthcare Related area seat.

Ms. Dubis comes to ABHES with an extensive background in accreditation, having served as a team leader and subject specialist for many years on ABHES accreditation teams. She is also a member of the Preliminary Review Committee and former member of the Commissioner Nominating Committee. She has been employed by St. Louis College of Health Careers since 1989.

Ms. Dubis holds a Masters of Health Administration from St. Louis University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Mayville College, St. Louis, Missouri.