
ABHES BULLETIN



Continued Recognition

On July 27, 2021, ABHES appeared before the National Advisory Council for Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), as part of its re-recognition process. The U.S. Department of Education's accreditation staff presented NACIQI with a fully compliant report. Therefore, ABHES is pleased to announce that it received confirmation from the Senior Department Official (SDO) in a letter dated October 27, 2021, that its application for renewal of recognition has been continued for a period of five years, which is the maximum number of years that can be awarded. Attaining re-recognition takes extraordinary team effort, so it is important to express my sincerest appreciation for those who contributed to ABHES achieving this momentous accomplishment.

ABHES Operations

As we continue to grapple with the impacts of the pandemic, ABHES remains vigilant and open to a range of flexible and creative solutions that support students enrolled in our accredited institutions and programs. Institutions should continue to execute their emergency preparedness protocols and continuity of education/operation plans as needed for health and safety reasons associated with COVID-19. Institutions must continue to maintain documentation of any temporary waivers of regulations received from federal, state, or other regulatory bodies governing the operation of the institution and/or its program(s). It is paramount that institutions continue to document efforts to ensure students meet required professional program competencies in compliance with applicable federal, state, and credentialing requirements for entry-level employment.

As our country and the world continues to grapple with the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ABHES is committed to working with our accredited institutions, programs, and constituencies during these challenging times. Additional updates will continue to be provided when there is new or changing guidance.

The ABHES office continues to operate during its normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Staff continue to be available to address any questions and provide support services via telephone or email. **As a reminder, all correspondence, and payments to ABHES must be submitted electronically. Please follow the [Submission Requirements](#) to ensure proper and timely processing.** For questions, please contact info@abhes.org.

New ABHES Staff

The ABHES staff continues to grow and expand. We are so fortunate to have such a well-rounded and talented staff who accomplish amazing work on behalf of the organization. Therefore, we are pleased to announce the following new staff members:



De'Vante Allen

dallen@abhes.org

De'Vante Allen will join ABHES November 1, 2021, as an Accreditation Coordinator. Mr. Allen has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from George Mason University and previously worked as a Graduate Assistant with the College of William and Mary in the Office of Student Veteran Engagement.



Hannah Boers

hboers@abhes.org

Hannah Boers will join ABHES November 1, 2021, as an Accreditation Coordinator. Ms. Boers has a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Point University and has previously worked as a Children's Ministry Director with Celebration Church.



Maya Moten

mmoten@abhes.org

Maya Moten joined ABHES in June 2021 as an Accreditation Coordinator. Ms. Moten has a Bachelor of Political Science from the University of North Carolina Greensboro and previously worked as a Teacher for the D.C. Public School System.



Melissa Santillana

msantillana@abhes.org

Melissa Santillana joined ABHES in May 2021 as an Accreditation Coordinator. Ms. Santillana has a Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies with a Concentration in Elementary Education and a Master of Education with a Concentration in Instruction and Curriculum, both from George Mason University. She previously worked for the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.

Staff Promotion



Kelly Costello

kcostello@abhes.org

It is with great pleasure to announce that Kelly Costello has been promoted to Associate Director of Accreditation. She began her career at ABHES as an accreditation coordinator in June 2013, and advanced to the manager of accreditation in 2017. Kelly has been instrumental in managing the accreditation process, including guiding the peer review process and leading various trainings for applicants seeking initial or renewed accreditation. She has also been the lead liaison to the Standards Review Committee (SRC) and Preliminary Review Committee (PRC). As the Associate Director of Accreditation, she will oversee and manage the onboarding, training, and continuous development of accreditation coordinators and other travel staff in addition to her continued work on SRC.

Kelly has made meaningful contributions to assist ABHES in fulfilling its mission and objectives. When working on projects, she not only ensures timely completion of critical projects, but demonstrates a desire to help others learn and grow their knowledge and understanding of ABHES standards, policies, and procedures. Therefore, this promotion reflects an appreciation of Kelly's hard work and dedication to ABHES.

Distance Education

As ABHES schools respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, many are increasing their usage of distance education methods. Any school that wishes to add a new distance education delivery method (blended or full distance delivery) should apply through the [membership portal](#). The prompts will direct you to the appropriate distance education application for your circumstances. Any school receiving formal approval for distance education for the first time will also have a virtual distance education verification visit within 6 months of distance education approval.

Institutions and programs that receive distance education approval but do not wish to continue utilizing distance education delivery methods once limitations attributable to COVID-19 are lifted may relinquish such approval by submitting a completed Notification of Discontinuation of Program and/or Distance Education Delivery Method through the [membership portal](#). Schools that wish to continue a program only through distance education methods can also relinquish residential delivery through the same process. For questions related to program and delivery method approvals, please contact Crystal Calaruse at ccalaruse@abhes.org.



Virtual Visits

On August 1, 2021, ABHES resumed conducting on-site team visits. However, due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases and the impact on institutions and their operations, ABHES returned to conducting all site visits virtually on for the remainder of the travel cycle. Virtual visits continue to permit ABHES to meet its obligations for quality assurance of accredited institutions and programs and permit applicants to continue to progress through the accreditation process. The objective of the virtual visit is to assess, in a virtual environment, each accreditation standard normally reviewed and evaluated during an on-site visit.

Further, although ABHES may take a final initial or renewed grant of accreditation action based upon a virtual visit, an in-person follow up site visit will be required. As described in the [U.S. Department of Education Guidance released December 11, 2020](#), the temporary flexibilities that help accrediting agencies serve institutions and students through the period of COVID-19 interruption require a follow up visit to virtual visits. That limited, follow up site visit will be conducted by ABHES staff or a single qualified ABHES evaluator as soon as practicable, generally within 180 days following a declaration that the COVID-19 national emergency has ended. It is noted that for a virtual change of ownership visit, the in-person follow up visit must be conducted within 90 days following a declaration that the COVID-19 national emergency has ended. Similarly, a virtual visit for addition of an ABHES-approved new non-main campus and/or separate educational center, where at least 50 percent of an education program is offered, the required in-person follow up visit will occur within 180 days following a declaration that the COVID-19 national emergency has ended. Institutions will be further informed of this requirement with notice of the action.

Should you have questions about an upcoming virtual visit or the required materials and processes, please contact Kelly Costello at kcostello@abhes.org.

Automation Updates

Over the past year ABHES has been diligently working to digitize all forms and applications. To date, the following applications have been automated, and can be completed and paid for online through the ABHES membership portal available for download at <https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Applications>:

- New Program Application (NPA)
- New Program Application (NPA) (with or without distance education)
- Minor Program Revision (MPR)
- Initial Distance Education (IDE)
- Modification of Distance Education (MDE)
- Substantive Program Revision (SPR)
- Notification of Discontinuation of Program
- Notification of Discontinuation of Delivery Method
- Change in School Name
- Excluded Continuing Education Courses
- Change in Mission
- Change in Academic Measurement
- Campus Closure



Automation Updates Continued

As a reminder, the 2020 – 2021 Annual Report is due on November 2, 2021, at 4:00 EST. The Annual Report is located in the ABHES Portal. This year, when you submit the Annual Report, a PDF version of the report will be emailed to the primary contact. The guidebook and instructional videos can be found at <https://portal.abhes.org/annual-reports/help/>. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please send an email to AnnualReport@abhes.org.

Annual ABHES Conference & Membership Meeting

After the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting our 18th Annual National Conference on Allied Health Education at The Roosevelt New Orleans! **Early bird registration runs through November 1st, so secure your spot today!**

For details on the pre-conference and conference events and to register, [click here](#). For questions, please contact Holly Doering, Manager of Compliance, Development and Quality Assurance at hdoering@abhes.org.



Upcoming Accreditation & Pre-Conference Workshops

ABHES will host its next Accreditation Workshop just prior to the National Conference on Allied Health Education in New Orleans, Louisiana on Monday, March 7, 2022. Staff will present the Institutional/Programmatic Accreditation Workshop which is open to initial and renewal applicants as well as members of the public and the Maintaining Accreditation Workshop open to representatives from institutions/programs currently accredited. Those who wish to register may do so by visiting <https://abhes.org/events/>. The cost of the workshop is \$650.

ABHES will also be offering the Program Effectiveness Plan (PEP) Workshop from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and a new workshop, Responding to Commission Directives from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, prior to the start of the annual conference.

Call for ABHES Evaluators!

ABHES is seeking qualified administrative team leaders and program specialists (both educators and practitioners) to serve as volunteer reviewers on institutional and programmatic visitation teams. We are asking our currently accredited institutions and programs to get more faculty and staff involved in the rewarding peer review process. While an honorarium is provided for the volunteer service, the bigger reward is making life connections with others in our sector and understanding more about the ABHES accreditation process, so your team is dedicated to maintaining your own compliance with accreditation standards and understanding why your institution has certain policies and procedures in place.

If you or any members of your staff and faculty are interested in serving as an evaluator for ABHES, please review the [Education, Experience, and Training Requirements](#) on our website and visit [Becoming an Evaluator](#) to download the ABHES Evaluator Application. Once completed, submit the ABHES Evaluator Application and a current resume or curriculum vitae to evaluator@abhes.org. Once all required documents are processed, evaluators will be contacted regarding upcoming training opportunities.

ABHES will host its next CORE Evaluator Training webinar on **Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (EDT)**. The webinar is open to new evaluators who have submitted their completed evaluator application and resume to evaluator@abhes.org and to current evaluators, as a refresher. For additional details and to register, visit <https://www.abhes.org/evaluator-trainings/> or [CLICK HERE](#).

We will also be bringing back on-site our Advanced Evaluator Training: Administrative Team Leader and Advanced Evaluator Training: Report Writing workshops taking place on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, prior to the ABHES National Conference on Allied Health Education in New Orleans, Louisiana. More information about these workshops and how to register, can be found on the conference website: <https://web.cvent.com/event/97fa7657-18b0-4f0c-a890-92e08db2521d/summary>.

Questions

Please contact ABHES staff with specific questions concerning your institution or program's compliance or accreditation. Please visit the [Our Staff](#) page on the ABHES website for specific staff member contact information. **If you are unsure of where to direct your questions, please contact Denise Thelemaque, Office Manager, at (703) 917-9503 or email info@abhes.org.**

