Happy New Year Greetings to all! A new year is a great time to reflect on the past and set new hopes and intentions for the year ahead.

Many could not have imagined that we would be starting the New Year with continued challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, ABHES schools have not wavered in their commitment to providing quality programs and services to students, which exemplifies ABHES’ core values of service, quality, integrity, innovation, and respect.

The Commission continues to recognize that this level of commitment has required significant financial resources for our institutions. Therefore, in a continued effort to support and aid ABHES-accredited institutions and programs, ABHES extended, for a second year, the 5% discount off of the 2021 Annual Sustaining Fees paid this past November. It is our hope that the savings will permit institutions to marshal additional resources in service to students.

As the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to affect our institutions and their operations, institutions should continue to execute their emergency preparedness protocols and continuity education/operation plans. Institutions must continue to follow the guidance issued by federal and state agencies and local public health authorities regarding infections and 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).

ABHES remains open to a range of flexible and creative solutions that support students enrolled in ABHES accredited institutions and programs, including efforts made to ensure students meet required professional program competencies in compliance with applicable federal, state, and credentialing requirements for entry-level employment.

We are committed to working with you during these challenging times and will continue to provide updates when there is new or changing guidance.
Distance Education

ABHES is currently conducting its normal procedures for reviewing distance education applications submitted by institutions and programs intending to offer new or expanded distance education methods, in accordance with Chapter III, Section B, Subsection 4 (C) of the Accreditation Manual. Approval of the distance education applications provides for formal inclusion of the distance education delivery modalities within the current ABHES grant of accreditation. Distance education applications are available at https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Applications.

Institutions and programs that wish to pursue approval of new or expanded distance education but do not wish to continue utilizing such methods once limitations attributable to COVID-19 are lifted are required to submit the customary distance education applications. If an approved program decides it no longer wishes to offer distance education delivery, it may relinquish such approval by submitting a completed Notification of Discontinuation of Program and/or Distance Education Delivery Methods available at https://www.abhes.org/resources/#Applications.

Please note that distance education applications are not intended for institutions providing temporary accommodations to individual students impacted by the pandemic. Those procedures should be addressed in the institution’s emergency preparedness protocols and continuity/operation plans. For questions related to program and delivery method approvals, please contact Crystal Calarusse at ccalarusse@abhes.org.

ABHES Operations

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. 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.

At its meeting held January 18-19, 2022, the Commission reviewed and considered school actions. The results of the Commission’s reviews will be provided in writing via email to the individual institutions on or before February 17, 2022.

School Evaluation Visits

ABHES is resuming on-site school evaluations visits starting January 31, 2022. The next travel cycle extends through April 2022. Schools visited during this travel cycle will be reviewed by the Commission at its July 2022 meeting.
Revised Accreditation Standards – Effective January 1, 2022

Please be sure to download the newly revised Accreditation Manual. The revisions in track changes detailing the final changes were identified in the June 2021 Bulletin and August 2021 Bulletin. Institutions and programs that submitted Self-Evaluation Reports (SER) in the fall of 2021 and are scheduled for evaluation visits in the first travel cycle of 2022 (February through early May) must demonstrate compliance with all applicable standards effective January 1, 2022.

The following new accreditation standards of Chapter V are of particular interest in that both require institutions to demonstrate that it has a process to track and record where enrolled students are physically located.

Standard, V.H.4
This standard requires institutions evidence that all disclosures regarding educational requirements are clearly communicated to appropriate constituencies for program(s) designed or advertised to meet educational requirements for specific licensing or credentialing.

A new Disclosures for State-Specific Education Requirements for Licensure or Credentialing form has been created to assist institutions and programs in determining compliance with this standard. Although completion of the form is not yet required, it is strongly recommended that schools undergoing site visits in the upcoming travel cycle, download and have the completed form available for site visitor review. For questions regarding the new form, please contact info@abhes.org.

Standard, V.H.5
This standard requires institutions publish the process for submitting complaints and the contact information for the appropriate state authorities or state approval agencies where: 1) the institution is located; and 2) each enrolled student is physically located.
Staff News

ABHES is so fortunate to have such a hardworking and dedicated staff who accomplish amazing work on behalf of the organization. Therefore, we are pleased to announce the following staff promotions and new positions:

Kyle Boyles
Manager of Membership Services
kboyles@abhes.org

Kyle Boyles was offered and accepted the position of Manager of Membership Services. Kyle began his career in June 2015 as an Accreditation Coordinator. Kyle currently is the lead liaison to the Financial Review Committee and Programmatic Accreditation Committee for Surgical Technology. He is an instrumental part of the team that presents workshops to current and prospective institutions and programs seeking ABHES initial and renewal accreditation. As a Manager of Membership Services, he will also lead the PEP Taskforce and be a Co-Liaison to the Preliminary Review Committee and process Change in Legal Status, Ownership, or Form of Control applications.

Kyle continues to be a valuable asset to the ABHES team, and his daily contributions are appreciated. We congratulate him on his promotion and look forward to his continued growth.

Holly Doering
Senior Project Manager
hdoering@abhes.org

Holly Doering was offered and accepted the new Senior Project Manager position. Holly began her career here at ABHES in May 2010 and has worked in a variety of important positions throughout her tenure. Her experience spans the spectrum of ABHES business and accreditation operations. Holly has been instrumental in managing ABHES’ information technology needs and providing quality assurance. She now serves as the lead staff liaison to the Annual Review Committee. As the Senior Project Manager, Holly will oversee development and maintenance of Accreditation Management System (AMS) including the accreditation and annual report management systems. She is also spearheading ABHES’ automation initiatives of its applications and forms.

Holly continues to make meaningful contributions to assist ABHES in fulfilling its mission and objectives. Holly completes her projects with great diligence and attention to detail. She consistently ensures timely completion of critical assignments and continues to demonstrate her extensive knowledge and understanding of ABHES standards, policies, and procedures. Therefore, there is no doubt that Holly will continue to excel at ABHES in this new position.
Laurie Hart  
Events and Operations Coordinator  
[lihart@abhes.org](mailto:lihart@abhes.org) 

Laurie Hart was offered and accepted the new Events and Operations Coordinator position. Laurie began her career here at ABHES in 2007 for assistance with special projects. In 2015, Laurie joined the staff officially in a part-time capacity and in December 2021, Laurie opted to fill a full-time position. Laurie is an extremely diligent employee who has strong attention to detail. She takes her responsibilities seriously. As the new Events and Operations Coordinator, Laurie will oversee planning and management of the ABHES Annual National Conference on Allied Health, ABHES IT needs, and updating accreditation records maintained in the accreditation management system.

Laurie continues to be a valuable member of the ABHES staff. We are fortunate to have her and know that she will continue to excel at ABHES in this new position.

Wazhma Ibrahim  
Senior Accreditation Coordinator  
[wibrahim@abhes.org](mailto:wibrahim@abhes.org) 

Wazhma Ibrahim was offered and accepted the position of Senior Accreditation Coordinator. Wazhma began her career with ABHES in September 2015 as an Administrative Assistant before switching gears and becoming an Accreditation Coordinator. As a Senior Accreditation Coordinator, she will assist the Membership Services team with recruiting new evaluators and maintaining the required documentation needed to verify evaluator qualifications and training requirements. Additionally, Wazhma assists with tracking of new programs, non-main campuses, and separate education centers in preparation for each travel cycle. She is the lead staff liaison to the Programmatic Accreditation Committees for Medical Assisting and Medical Laboratory Technology and an assistant liaison to the Standards Review Committee.

Wazhma is a tremendous asset to the ABHES team, and we congratulate her on her promotion.
Upcoming Accreditation and 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 geared towards initial applicants and those new to the ABHES accreditation process and 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/](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.

Annual ABHES Conference and Membership Meeting

After nearly two years of being apart, ABHES will be hosting its 18th Annual National Conference on Allied Health Education in-person at The Roosevelt New Orleans! For details and to register, visit [ABHES Events](https://abhes.org/events/). For questions, please contact Laurie Hart at lhart@abhes.org.

For those of you attending the ABHES Conference, please make sure to arrive in time for our Staff Panel on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. This complimentary session will feature updates and provide an opportunity to share best practices regarding various accreditation topics. Staff will be present to answer questions about the accreditation process, old and new standards, as well as provide tips for troubleshooting standards, processes, and/or procedures.

Please submit any questions you would like to be addressed during this panel [here](https://abhes.org/events/). We look forward to seeing everyone in person and will also have time reserved for live questions.

On the Horizon

Many of the greatest ideas and discoveries come from a diverse mix of minds, backgrounds, and experiences. ABHES continues to build an inclusive culture that encourages, supports, and celebrates diversity, which drives innovation and connects us closer to our communities of interest. ABHES will soon be releasing details regarding upcoming Commissioner Elections in addition to launching efforts to recruit new committee members for terms starting July 1, 2022.
Call for ABHES Evaluators!

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. The application and current resume or curriculum vitae should be emailed to evaluator@abhes.org. Once all required documents are processed, evaluators will be contacted regarding upcoming training opportunities.

Although ABHES invites any individuals to become evaluators, we are especially in need of volunteers with backgrounds in Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting Practitioners, Massage Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy Technology, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Surgical Technology Practitioners, and Veterinary Assisting/Technology to become ABHES evaluators.

ABHES will host its next CORE Evaluator Training webinar on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 1:00 pm – 3:00 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, to register, or to see what other trainings are currently scheduled, visit https://www.abhes.org/evaluator-trainings/.

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.