



ACCREDITING BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION SCHOOLS | ABHES

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## ABHES BULLETIN

To: ABHES Accredited Institutions and Programs  
Interested Parties

From: India Y. Tips, Executive Director, ABHES

Date: May 22, 2023

Subject: Commissioner Appointment and Election Results

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ABHES is pleased to announce the results of the election that occurred on Friday, May 19, 2023. The individuals listed below will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2023. ABHES wants to thank all of the candidates and accredited institutions and programs for participating in this year's election.

### PRACTITIONER IN SPECIALTY AREA

**Lakeisa Cumberbatch** has been reappointed by the ABHES Commission to serve her second three-year term.

Ms. Cumberbatch is a Surgical Technologist at Carerev Staffing and serves as the Surgical Technologist Program Coordinator at Rasmussen University. She is a Certified Surgical Technologist and Certified Registered Central Sterile Technician with over twenty years in the field as a practitioner.

Ms. Cumberbatch has over ten years of experience in education and has served in several academic roles. Her work with ABHES serves in the capacity of a Commissioner-Practitioner in Specialty Area, Evaluator, Surgical Technology Programmatic Accreditation Committee as Chairman and member, Substantive Change Committee as Chairman and member, and Annual Review Committee as a member. She brings several years of accreditation experience from Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA), Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), and Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET).

## PUBLIC MEMBER

**Dr. Steve Peterson** has been appointed by the ABHES Commission to serve his first three-year term.

Dr. Peterson is doctorally prepared in Behavioral Health Organizational Leadership and is an educator and leader with both Grand Canyon and Arizona State University. Dr. Peterson's academic responsibilities include being a faculty mentor, synchronous and asynchronous trainer, and facilitator, as well as a faculty lecturer in both the ground and online modalities. He has co-authored and was a contributing author to three textbooks for Arizona State University and has served ABHES as an on-site accreditation subject matter expert as well as a team leader.

## ACADEMIC IN A HEALTHCARE RELATED AREA

**Kathaleen Cole** has been elected by the ABHES membership to serve her first three-year term.

Ms. Cole began working in higher education in 1996 as a Massage Therapy Instructor and Director of Education. She became passionate about compliance, which motivated her to become an evaluator and serve on the preliminary review committee. Ms. Cole earned a Bachelor of Science in Instructional Design and Technology from the University of West Florida while working full-time. She also serves as Chair for her local workforce board. As commissioner, she hopes to bring her perspective as a consumer, school administrator, instructor, and evaluator to facilitate a better understanding and appreciation for accreditation standards.

## COMMISSIONER-AT-LARGE

**Timothy Lee** has been reelected by the ABHES membership to serve his second three-year term.

Mr. Lee is currently the Co-President for West Coast University. He has been in higher education for over 24 years with the majority of his experience working in the area of admissions. Prior to West Coast University, he served as Chief Operating Officer for American Career College for 7 years and held executive positions and Career Education Corporation and Corinthian Colleges. He began his career in education as a baseball coach and special education teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from California State University San Bernardino and a Master of Business Administration from the University of LaVerne.

## OWNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

**Stephen Schwartz** has been elected by the ABHES membership to serve his first three-year term.

Mr. Schwartz is the Co- CEO and CFO of American Institute, with five campuses serving New Jersey and Connecticut. He started in proprietary education in 1992. During his 30 years of service, he has worked across all functions within the organization of both public and private companies. Prior to this experience, he held positions on Wall Street as an Associate at an investment bank. Mr. Schwartz believes that with a focus on quality programs, faculty, and staff, a school can deliver for all stakeholders including students, communities, employers, investors, and taxpayers.