

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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DEAC Associate Director Announces Retirement

After serving on the Distance Education Accrediting Commission staff for nearly 42 years, Ms. Sally R. Welch, DEAC's Associate Director and longest-tenured staff member, announced her retirement effective December 31, 2015.

"My nearly 42 year career with DEAC has been both professionally and personally rewarding. I am sincerely blessed to be part of the DEAC family for so long, and I feel honored and privileged to have worked with so many outstanding people," said Ms. Welch. "My sincere thanks to all of you for your support and friendship throughout the years. DEAC and its extended family will always have a special place in my heart."

Ms. Welch joined the National Home Study Council (NHSC) in 1974 as the Assistant to the Accrediting Program Coordinator. She became Director of Publications in 1976, in 1992 she was appointed Assistant Director, and in 2007 she was named Associate Director. Ms. Welch has been steadfast in her contributions to the organization, developing training material for DEAC staff and volunteers, maintaining the *DEAC Accreditation Handbook*, and instituting the DEAC's *Outstanding Graduates and Famous Alumni* program.

Throughout her service, Ms. Welch served on more than 270 accrediting examinations in the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Japan. Additionally, she coordinated and edited numerous DEAC publications, advised countless committees on accreditation standards and policies, supported the work of the Accrediting Commission and served as DEAC's liaison to the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

"Sally's commitment and dedication to DEAC over the years is extraordinary," said Dr. Leah Matthews, DEAC's Executive Director. "Her work has left a lasting imprint on the organization, we are truly grateful for her exemplary contributions and wish her great joy in her retirement."

Ms. Welch also is a double recipient of the DEAC Distinguished Recognition award (1984 and 2004), and was named DEAC Person of the Year in 2013.

All are invited to join DEAC in honoring Ms. Welch with a luncheon in her honor during the 90th Annual Conference next April, taking place at the Loews Madison Hotel in Washington, DC.

ABOUT DEAC

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1926 that operates as an institutional accreditor of distance education institutions. DEAC's goal is to ensure a high standard of educational quality in the distance education institutions it accredits and a quality education for the more than two million students who annually study at its accredited institutions.

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