

IN THIS ISSUE

- DETC Welcomes New Institutions
- Remembering a Distance Education Pioneer
- DETC Award Recipients Honored
- 86th Annual Conference Breaks Record

SPRING 2012



# DETC NEWS



# DETC NEWS - Spring 2012

## Contents

Executive Director’s Diary.....	1
Fall Workshop Call for Proposals Now Open .....	4
DETC Welcomes New Institutions.....	5
Remembering a Distance Education Pioneer .....	8
Important Dates.....	9
Report from the Accrediting Commission.....	10
DETC Award Recipients Honored.....	15
NASASPS Elects DETC Director to Lifetime Membership .....	18
Michael Lambert Recognized as DETC’s <i>Person of the Year</i> .....	19
86th Annual Conference Breaks Record .....	21

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Story ideas, feedback, letters to the editor and other reader submissions are encouraged and should be sent via e-mail. Please put “DETC NEWS SUBMISSION” as the subject line of your e-mail.

The Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) a nonprofit, voluntary association of accredited distance study institutions, was founded in 1926 to promote sound educational standards and ethical business practices within the distance study field. The independent DETC Accrediting Commission is listed by the United States Department of Education as a “nationally recognized accrediting agency.”

The Accrediting Commission is also a charter member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

**DETC Staff:**

**Executive Director:**  
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**Associate Director:**  
Sally R. Welch

**Director of Accreditation:**  
Nan M. Bayster Ridgeway

**Director of Media and Events:**  
Robert S. Chalifoux

**Accreditation Associate:**  
Lissette Hubbard

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# Executive Director's Diary

## ***Annual Reports, Outcomes Assessments Highlight Positive DETC Story***

by  
Michael P. Lambert  
Executive Director



Each January, DETC institutions must submit an Annual Report to the DETC Accrediting Commission. The report includes data and information on the past year's activities, enrollments, finances, and—most importantly—outcomes assessment indicators.

The DETC Accrediting Commission carefully analyzes these reports and takes follow-up action on areas of concern that may surface in them.

This year, I spent several days and read *every one* of the Annual Reports received, and came away with a much deeper appreciation of what DETC institutions are doing, what challenges they are confronting, what successes they have had and what they are planning to do to meet these challenges.

Annual Reports are an effective, focused monitoring tool for any accredit-

ing association today. They provide the accrediting body with a “dashboard” of information that allows the accreditor to determine how and if institutions are meeting published standards of academic quality, and they provide a focused look at how institutions are meeting the minimum expectations or benchmarks for outcomes that have, in the past decade, have become critically important.

The current DETC outcomes assessment policy was put into effect in 2003, and over the past decade, DETC has been collecting and analyzing key institution outputs like graduation rates, course completion rates, and student success indicators.

To DETC, outcomes assessment is an ongoing process aimed at understanding and improving student learning. When  
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**(Executive Director's Diary, continued)**

developing an outcomes assessment plan, an institution considers: (1) what it wants students to be able to do or know; (2) how it knows they can do it or know it; and (3) how it will use the information received to improve curricula, student services and learning. The plan should begin with a solid set of learning goals and outcomes that are quantifiable, realistic, and measurable. Or, put another way, outcomes are the optimal way that an institution can demonstrate that it is “delivering on its promises to its learners,” the *sine qua non* of what accreditation represents to the world.

The cornerstone of DETC's assessment program to gauge student success and satisfaction are the use, in a written survey, of 3 mandatory, prescribed questions that each DETC institution must ask its students every year. The questions must be asked exactly as stated below.

The institution **must** include in its surveys the following **three questions** and use the “Yes-No” response. The questions are worded so that they apply to students who have dropped out, are still studying, or who have completed the course/program:

1. *Did you achieve, or will you have achieved upon completing your studies, the goals you had when you started this course or program?*
2. *Would you recommend these studies to a friend?*
3. *All things considered, were you satisfied with your studies with us?*

The minimum acceptable “Yes” response rate is that three of four responders

(or 75%) must answer “Yes” to **each** of the three mandatory questions.

In the past decade, there has been remarkably little movement up or down in the percentage of “Yes” responses to each of these 3 questions. The percentage figures have not changed more than 3 digits in ten years, i.e., in 2003, 93% of respondents said they achieved their goals. In 2011, 95% said they had achieved them.

For all 108 institutions in the DETC, the average percent of “Yes” responses to the questions in 2011 were:

**Question 1:** 95% said yes, they achieved their goals.

**Question 2:** 96% said yes, they would recommend their studies to a friend

**Question 3:** 97% said they were satisfied with their studies.

What this data from the 2011 Annual Reports to DETC tell us is illuminating. Students are achieving what they set out to do, they are satisfied with how they are being treated and they are so happy they are willing to tell others to enroll in their Alma Mater.

As the survey results show year after year—across the board for all of DETC members—students report that they are getting what they paid for and are happy with the services received.

Compare this picture above with the “doom and gloom” media exposes that are targeted at a handful of the so-called “bad actor” for profit colleges, and you can probably see why those of us in DETC are experiencing some cognitive dissonance about the bleak postsecondary institution landscape that is being portrayed by the media.





A group of DETC's 2012 Outstanding Graduates after accepting their plaques during the 86th Annual Conference, held April 15-17, 2012 in Wailea.

***(Executive Director's Diary, continued)***

It is also apparent that the media exposes make significant use of the tactic of citing one or two human interest stories of unhappy, defrauded or misled students, and from these isolated experiences, generalize, stereotype and cast aspersions an entire sector of institutions.

Invoking the same privilege of generalizing from a few stories, here is a representative sampling of testimonials from this year's class of **DETC Outstanding Graduates** that expresses in words what the DETC survey data indicate year after year:

- *"I realize how little knowledge I have about running a business...I have*

*learned that knowledge comes incrementally. Earning the DBA has made me a better manager than I was 20 years ago. I am ready for greater challenges"*  
—Arthur Mazhambe, California Inter-Continental University

- *"I completed 70% of my University of Management and Technology MBA in Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq. Textbooks shipped promptly and online features were available as if I were in the good ol' US of A. Talk about true distance learning!"*  
—Todd Costman, University of Management and Technology
- *"WGU was literally one of the best things that ever happened to me. Anyone may have a challenge, but*

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## **(Executive Director's Diary, continued)**

*that doesn't necessarily have to get in the way of getting an education. It's never too late to get an education."*

—Justin Osmond, Western Governors University

- *"Concord Law School's online program provided the opportunity and support for me to go to law school while I fulfilled my responsibilities as a police officer, to my family and my community."*

—Thomas Feledy, Concord Law School of Kaplan University

- *"My favorite part about Allied is that I completed my classes on my own time. There were definitely times that school and the military didn't seem to mesh very well, but they understood completely and worked with my schedule."*

—Leigh Correia, Allied Business Schools

DETC is not content to just have institutions collect outcomes data and report them to the Commission. Starting on January 1, 2012, DETC required each institution to disclose publicly the outcomes information it gathers.

DETC Business Standard I.A.9. states: *Institutions routinely provide reliable, current and accurate information to the public on their website on their performance, including student achievement, as determined by the institution.*

DETC institutions must now display on their websites a prescribed, mandatory **Consumer Information Disclosure form** that tells the world about their performance, including student performance. The form mandates certain minimum disclosure

elements, such as the satisfaction survey data described above, graduation rates, tuition costs and other consumer-useful information as well.

In DETC, we have not only embraced the concept of conducting rigorous outcomes assessment—complete with specific, “bright line minimum passing marks” on a continuous basis, we have also taken the next step and have required that this outcomes and performance data be disclosed to the public.

If history is a teacher, the public, and in particular, prospective students, will become accustomed to seeing such revealing disclosures on all college websites, and at the end of the day, they will be empowered to make more informed choices on where and what they choose to study. They can handle the truth.

And everyone wins when a student selects the right program of study for him or her based on the facts.

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## **Fall Workshop Call for Proposals Now Open**

Remember to save the date for the DETC Fall Workshop, taking place October 14-16, 2012, at the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe, NM.

Interested in speaking at the Workshop? The call for proposals is open now! Visit the DETC website to submit your presentation ideas. Submissions must be received by June 15th to be considered for the Fall Workshop. Contact Rob Chalifoux, DETC's Director of Media and Events, via e-mail ([rob@detc.org](mailto:rob@detc.org)) with any questions.

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# DETC Welcomes New Institutions

*Editor's Note: At the DETC Accrediting Commission's January meeting of the, three new institutions were accredited (see **Report from the Accrediting Commission**, page 10). Please join us in welcoming them to the DETC Family.*



**Apollos University**, established in 2005 in Huntington Beach, California, provides postsecondary education opportunities to students who might not be able to attend or afford a traditional university because of busy work schedules, family, or other lifestyle commitments.

The graduate degree programs (MBA, MSOM, and DBA) are facilitated worldwide (United States, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, India, Turkey, and Vietnam) through an online, distance learning methodology and technological platform designed to meet the needs of the global community while providing individualized service to the students.

Apollos utilizes the Moodle learning platform for students and operates its own state-of-the-art administrative system to

deliver an innovative and interactive experience to 21st Century learners.

Apollos students sharpen critical thinking skills through individual and team learning models including discussion questions, papers, exams and case study analysis. They also hone research skills by finding information they need in Apollos' cutting edge, user friendly library which houses a variety of peer-reviewed journals, books, papers, articles, and other periodicals. Through the challenging curriculum, students acquire skills to use resources and apply knowledge to achieve success in their chosen professions.

Apollos faculty members are an international group of professionals who have the passion to teach and the life experiences necessary to enrich the classroom experience. Faculty members are dedicated to guiding and encouraging students to achieve their dreams:

"One of the exciting concepts we are promoting at Apollos University is the 'Apollos Experience.' Through this academic journey of knowledge building, our learners are experiencing the gateway to their futures," said Apollos Faculty Member Pat Guy.

Today, Apollos University stands firm in its mission as a globally recognized leader in online distance learning by providing the highest quality education at affordable tuition rates.

For more information on Apollos University, visit the institution's website at [www.apollosuniversity.edu](http://www.apollosuniversity.edu).

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## **(DETC Welcomes New Institutions, continued)**

**Shiloh University** is an online Bible College and Seminary based in scenic southeast Iowa. The University was founded in 2006 as a ministry of The Living Word Fellowship churches with the two-fold purpose of providing quality higher education for all students, and training pastors, church ministries, and Bible teachers.

The University Founder, Gary Hargrave, and President, Christopher Reeves, led a team of educators, ministers, and administrators to form a curriculum and administration that would meet DETC accreditation standards, and establish excellence in Christian education.



**Christopher Reeves**

An online format for the curriculum was chosen enabling students to participate from any geographic location while keeping tuition costs affordable.

In addition, the online format enables University students who balance work, family, and church ministry commitments to manage their coursework within their personal schedules.

The University offers three degree programs: a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical and Pastoral Studies, a Master of Arts in Biblical and Pastoral Studies, and a Master of Divinity.

Non-degree students, such as church ministers and congregants, may take courses for personal enrichment or profes-

sional development. All courses are offered on a fifteen-week trimester basis.

The Shiloh University staff greatly appreciated all of the accreditation materials provided by DETC, and enjoyed working with the DETC staff throughout the accreditation process. The staff now is looking forward to growing participation in the distance education community.

In the near future, the University has plans to expand its initial degree offerings through the development of a two-year Associate of Arts degree and a four-year liberal studies Degree.

For more information about Shiloh University, please visit the institution's website at [www.shilohuniversity.edu](http://www.shilohuniversity.edu).

**The University of Fairfax (UoF)** was established in 2002 in response to the events of September 11, 2001, which brought into focus the need for qualified information assurance and security professionals to protect the nation's cybersecurity infrastructure.

The mission of the University of Fairfax is to support the cybersecurity community by providing adult learners with quality, accessible, distance education. The practitioner-oriented graduate programs offered produce applied research in Enterprise Management, focusing on Information Assurance and Information Security.

The University of Fairfax is located in Tysons Corner in Vienna, Virginia just west of Washington, DC. This bustling corridor of government contracting and technology is the home to many of the agencies and employers with which the university works.

The University's curriculum was designed and is taught by practitioners in the



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**(DETC Welcomes New Institutions, continued)**



**The University of Fairfax is headquartered in Tyson's Corner, Virginia.**

cybersecurity community drawn heavily from this center for technology.

UoF offers Doctoral Degrees in Information Assurance, Master's Degrees in Information Security Management/Enterprise Management, and Cybersecurity graduate certificate programs.

These programs are all delivered online, utilizing both synchronous and asynchronous interaction in eight-week, semester-based course sessions.

The National Security Agency has recognized the University's curriculum by authorizing the school to award their 4011 and 4012 certifications simply by successfully completing graduate courses, with no additional testing.

In addition, the University has built a web-based community of 40,000 cybersecurity professionals and offers prepara-

tion support for the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Ethical Hacking (CEH) credentials

With its exclusive focus on cybersecurity, UoF is a leading provider of senior cybersecurity professionals for both the public and private sectors. Major employers including SAIC, Northrop Grumman, CSC, Lockheed Martin, Dell, NSA, DHS, and Veterans Affairs hire and promote our students and alumni as cybersecurity specialists, managers, and executives.

In addition, University of Fairfax alumni have been appointed to faculty positions at major universities; received promotions to sub-cabinet offices in the U.S. government; conducted dissertation research in major federal agencies; been appointed to research director positions; been cited by the White House; presented internationally and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Achieving DETC accreditation enables the University to strengthen its commitment to carrying out its motto, *Secure Your Future*.

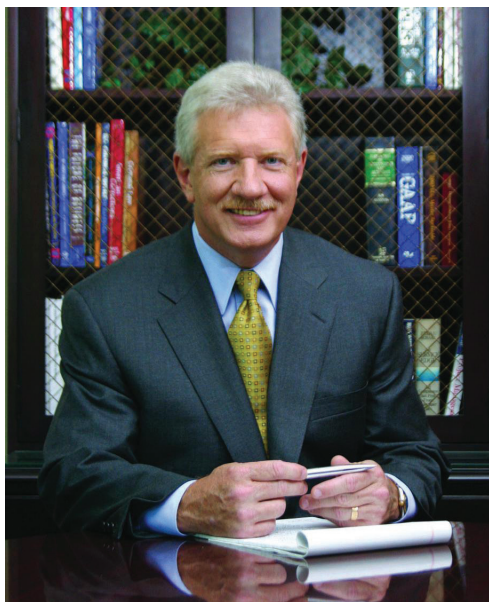
"The University of Fairfax is dedicated to serving its students, the cybersecurity community and the nation as we prepare for the infrastructure challenges of the future. We are proud to become a part of DETC and thank the staff and our peers for all their support and guidance as we grew and improved through the process of accreditation," said University of Fairfax President David Oxenhandler.

For more information about the University of Fairfax, visit the institution's website at [www.ufairfax.edu](http://www.ufairfax.edu).



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# Remembering a Distance Education Pioneer



Gary M. Keisling, 61, died at home of pancreatic cancer on February 20, 2012.

His wife, best friend and caregiver is Alicemarie (Rhee) Stevens of North Scranton. Gary was born to Lois Wolfram Keisling and the late Rollin Keisling. Surviving are his daughter, Shannon Keisling; and two sons, Ryan and Garrett.

Gary was always very proud of his children's accomplishments and creativity. Ryan, a Chef and Organic Farmer; Garrett, a successful Glass Blower recognized in his field; and Shannon's clinical work at Children's Hospital of Boston were frequent topics of their father's praise.

Shortly before his death, he was proud to learn that Shannon was accepted to Drexel Medical School.

Gary served in an executive capacity

for more than 25 years, having successfully led two distinguished distance education institutions, and is highly regarded as a visionary and influential advocate for the benefits of distance education. In his most recent capacity, Gary served as CEO and Chairman of the Board of KF Capital and Ashworth College.

He previously served on the Distance Education and Training Council's (DETC) Board of Trustees from 1989 until 1998 and held the positions of First Vice President, President and Vice Chairman. He was presented with DETC's Distinguished Service and Distinguished Recognition Award for his dedication to distance education.

Gary was most recently honored by Ashworth College by the introduction of the Gary, Keisling ACCESS Scholarship program in recognition of his dedication and contributions to both Ashworth College and the field of distance education. Ashworth plans to annually award up to \$25,000 in tuition scholarships in his name beginning in 2012. ACCESS is an acronym for Ashworth College Continuing Education for Student Success, which reflects Gary's personal and professional mission to offer underserved populations having limited access to educational opportunities that are both affordable and accessible.

Previously, Gary was President and CEO of ICS/National Education Corporation, and he was graduate of Temple University.

Gary was lured back from retirement or  
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***(Remembering a Distance Education Pioneer, continued)***

the thought of retirement during the years by his drive, determination and eagerness to work with his partners at Sterling Capital, Rick Elfman and Jason Rosenberg.

His real joy came from working with his “Dream Team” members: Bob Smith, Melissa Maddox, Joe Piazza, Milt Miller, Mike Rutsky, and Ron Gregory.

Gary was a kind and generous person with community being of great importance in his life. He chaired and served on numerous boards including the United Way and Family Services of Lackawanna County, the Red Cross, the Board of Community Medical Center, and the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

Also surviving are two brothers, Rolly and wife Lynda; Paul and wife Dorothy; two sisters, Sharon Hoffman and her partner, Stephen Brancati; and Lois Hughes and husband, Joe; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Gary enjoyed the Sunday routine, where he and Rhee hosted dinner each week for the Stevens’ family. He opened his home and his heart and looked forward to a day of family, friendships, and spending time with the kids.

Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of the Sacred Heart, 340 Montage Mountain Road, Moosic, PA 18507; Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, 967 Griffin Pond Road, South Abington Township, PA 18411; the United Way of Lackawanna County, 615 Jefferson Avenue #304, Scranton, PA 18510; or a charity of choice.

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# **Important Dates!**

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming DETC Meetings and Events:

## **2012**

**Accrediting Commission Meeting**  
June 14-15

**DETC Fall Workshop**  
October 14-16  
Eldorado Hotel & Spa  
Santa FE, NM

## **2013**

**Accrediting Commission Meeting**  
January 10-11

## **2013 (continued)**

**87th Annual Conference**  
April 14-16  
The Mark Hopkins Hotel  
San Francisco, CA

**Accrediting Commission Meeting**  
June 13-14

**DETC Fall Workshop**  
October 13-15  
The Windsor Court Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

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# Report From the Accrediting Commission

The DETC Accrediting Commission met on January 19-20, 2012 and took the following actions:

## Three Institutions Gain Accreditation

**Apollos University**, 17011 Beach Boulevard, Suite 900, Huntington Beach, CA, 92647. Phone: (714) 927-7539; website: [www.apollosuniversity.edu](http://www.apollosuniversity.edu). Dr. Paul Eidson, President and CEO. Founded 2005. Offers Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Organizational Management and Doctor of Business Administration.

**Shiloh University**, 100 Shiloh Drive, Kalona, Iowa 52247. Phone: (319) 656-2447; website: [www.shilohuniversity.org](http://www.shilohuniversity.org). Mr. Christopher Reeves, President. Founded 2006. Offers Bachelor of Arts in Biblical and Pastoral Studies, Master of Arts in Biblical and Pastoral Studies and Master of Divinity.

**University of Fairfax**, 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Suite G-100, Vienna, VA 22182. Phone: (703) 790-3200; website: [www.ufairfax.edu](http://www.ufairfax.edu). Mr. David Oxenhandler, President/CEO. Founded 2002. Offers Master of Science in Enterprise Management, Master of Science in Information Security Management, Doctorate in Information Assurance (DIA), Doctorate of Science in Information Assurance (DSc) and certificate programs in security and information systems.

## Six Institutions Reaccredited

The following institutions were reaccredited:

- American Public University System, Charles Town, WV
- Ellis University, Chicago, IL
- Grantham University, Kansas City, MO
- Huntingon College for Health Sciences, Knoxville, TN
- Institute of Logistical Management, Burlington, NJ 08016
- Westlawn Institute of Marine Technology, Eastport, ME

## Show Cause Issued

The following institutions were issued a Show Cause:

- Perelandra College, 8697-C La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, CA 91941
- Yorktown University, Inc., 4340 East Kentucky Avenue, Suite 457, Denver, CO 80246

## Institution Ceases Enrollments

The University of Atlanta, Norcross, GA is no longer accepting new enrollments. DETC accreditation applies solely to students studying with the Norcross, GA-based institution, and is for “teach-out

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## ***(Report from the Accrediting Commission, continued)***

purposes.” DETC accreditation expires June 30, 2013.

### **Resigned DETC Accreditation**

- The American Public University System (American Military University and American Public University), Charles Town, WV, resigned its DETC accreditation as of April 30, 2012.
- The Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute, Nashville, TN, resigned its DETC accreditation as of March 31, 2012.

### **Change of Name**

Applied Professional Training, Inc., changed its name to APT College, LLC.

### **Change of Location**

A change of location for the following institutions was approved:

- Brighton College and the Paralegal Institute moved from Glendale, AZ to 7332 E. Butherus Drive, Suite 102, Scottsdale, AZ 85260
- Griggs University moved from Silver Spring, MD to 8903 U.S. Highway 31, Suite 2, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
- New Charter University moved from Birmingham, AL to 543 Howard Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

### **Change of Management**

The Commission approved the change of management for two institutions:

- Ashworth College, Norcross, GA—Rob Klapper new CEO, and Joe Piazza is the new CFO
- Penn Foster, Scranton, PA—Frank F. Britt was appointed as new CEO and Joe Gagnon was appointed new President and COO

### **New Courses/Programs**

The Commission approved new courses/programs at the following institutions:

- Abraham Lincoln University
- Aerobics and Fitness Association of America
- Allied Business Schools, Inc.
- American College of Technology
- American Graduate School of Education
- American Graduate University
- American Sentinel University
- Ashworth University
- Aspen University
- Atlantic University
- Brighton College
- California Coast University

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## *(Report from the Accrediting Commission, continued)*

- California InterContinental University
- California Southern University
- Catholic Distance University
- Henley-Putnam University
- Holmes Institute
- Kona University
- Lakewood College
- New Learning Resources Online
- New York Institute of Photography
- Penn Foster College
- Sessions College for Professional Design
- University of Philosophical Research
- University of Management and Technology
- William Howard Taft University
- Yorktown University

For a complete list of new courses/programs approved by the Commission, visit the DETC website.

### **Final Approval of Standards, Policies and/or Procedures**

The Commission gave final adoption to the following (to view these documents, please go to DETC's website at <http://www.detc.org>).

Accredited institutions must be in compliance by July 1, 2012:

- **New DETC Business Standard II. Student Enrollment, A. Enrollment Agreements:** new #2, clarifies obligations of student and institution if student enrolls by course and/or program;
- **Changes to C.9. Policy on Degree Program, Standard VII: Admission Practices:** added minimum B1 English proficiency level identified within the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) standards and assessed through various ESOL examinations—under “When Applicant’s Native Language is other than English; and
- **Changes to C.9. Policy on Degree Program, Standard VII: Admission Practices:** under Experiential Equivalent Credit—added institution must have published evaluation standards similar to CAEL’s and a qualified individual with experience to oversee evaluations of learning portfolios. Also added CAEL’s “Ten Standards for Assessing Learning.”

To view a complete list of the changes to the Policies, Procedures and Standards approved by the Accrediting Commission, visit the DETC website at <http://www.detc.org/actions>.

### **Proposed Changes**

The Commission gave preliminary ap-

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## ***(Report from the Accrediting Commission, continued)***

proval to the following changes to DETC Standards, Policies and Procedures:

- Revised C.25. Policy on Change of Name (added “or adding a New Division”)
- Changes to C.9. Policy on Degree Programs, Standard VII. Admission Practices (revised high school requirements and approved documentation.)
- Standards V.B. and V.C.
- C.1. Policy on Substantive Change and Notification
- C.2. Policy on Change of Mission, Goals, and Objectives
- C.6. Policy on Combination Distance Study-Resident Programs or Training Sites
- C.7. Policy on Approval of New Combination Distance Study-Resident Programs or Training Sites
- C.14. Policy on Student Achievement and Satisfaction
- C.27. Policy on Teach-Out Plans
- D.3. Notification and Information Sharing
- D.4. Retention of Commission Files and Records
- D.5. Reviewing, Adopting, and Circulating Standards, Policies, and Procedures
- D.8. Conflict of Interest Policy

- D.8.1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form
- D.10. Selection and Training of Commissioners

To view the documents, please visit the Call for Public Comment page of the DETC’s website at <http://www.detc.org/actions/comment>.

Any comments on the proposed changes should be sent to Sally Welch at DETC ([sally@detc.org](mailto:sally@detc.org)). Please write “Comments on Proposed Changes” in the subject line of your e-mail, and expect a received verification. If not, please submit again: Final adoption of these policies will be considered at the Commission’s June 2012 meeting.

### **Applicants for Accreditation and Re-Accreditation in 2012**

The following institutions have applied for DETC initial accreditation or reaccreditation:

#### *First Time Applicants:*

- Grace Communion Seminary, Glendora, CA
- Iteach U.S., Denton, TX
- Nations University, West Monroe, LA
- University of the People, Pasadena, CA

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## ***(Report from the Accrediting Commission, continued)***

### *Applicants for Reaccreditation:*

- APT College, Inc., Carlsbad, CA
- Army Institute for Professional Development, Fort Eustis, VA
- Ashworth College, Norcross, GA
- Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
- Brighton College and the Paralegal Institute, Scottsdale, AZ
- Babel University, Honolulu, HI
- California National University for Advanced Studies, Northridge, CA
- Citizens' High School, Orange Park, FL
- Cleveland Institute of Electronics, Cleveland OH
- Gemological Institute of America, Carlsbad, CA
- Harrison Middleton University, Tempe, AZ
- INSTE Bible College, Ankeny, IA
- Marine Corps Institute, Washington, DC
- National Training, Orange Park, FL
- New Charter University, San Francisco, CA
- New York Institute of Photography/Sheffield School of Design, New York, NY

- Teacher Education University, Winter Park, FL
- University of Management and Technology, Arlington, VA
- University of Philosophical Research, Los Angeles, CA
- Western Governors University, Salt Lake, City, UT
- World College, Virginia Beach, VA

### **Revision of 2012 DETC Accreditation Handbook**

The 2012 DETC Accreditation Handbook is now available on DETC's website, at [www.detc.org/accreditationhandbook](http://www.detc.org/accreditationhandbook).

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the DETC Accrediting Commission will be June 14-15, 2012.

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## **2013 DETC Outstanding Graduate Program Dates**

It's time to start thinking about whether your institution will participate in the 2013 DETC Outstanding Graduate and Famous Alumni program!

The *Notice of Intent to Participate* forms will be due September first, and entries to both programs will be due November first.

More information on the program, including participation requirements and submission deadlines, will be available on the DETC website this summer!

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# DETC Award Recipients Honored

The Distance Education and Training Council presented five awards at the 86th annual conference in April.

The *DETC Distinguished Service Award* is presented to individuals inside the distance education field for their special outstanding service that has enhanced the image of distance education or significantly furthered the work of the Distance Education and Training Council.

**Ms. Kathleen Mirabile** is President and Owner of Brighton College. She has ten years of experience of executive and operations experience in the distance learning field. She has been an administrator and faculty member at Harrison Middleton University since 1998.



**Ms. Kathleen  
Mirabile**

Kathleen has served on the DETC's Research and Educational Standards Subcommittee since 2003 and served as Chair of the Committee from 2009—2011.

In addition, in 2011 she served on DETC's Task Force on Standards Review and was instrumental in helping to revise DETC standards.

She has been a DETC certified accreditation evaluator since 2003 and has served as the educational standards evaluator on several examining committees appointed to evaluate distance learning institutions.

Kathleen served as Administrator for Focus on the Future, a financial literacy

program for high school students developed in partnership with the Focus Foundation, State of New Mexico Securities Division, and private industries.

She earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of New Mexico and an Executive Juris Doctor from Concord University, School of Law.

Kathleen has been a stalwart and enthusiastic DETC member, freely volunteering to serve on any number of DETC projects and committees, serving with distinction in the accrediting program and providing other institutions with counsel on best practices. She is one of the people in DETC who have made it a professionally rewarding and friendly association and her commitment to serving the best interests of students is a model for all.

Kathleen is a mentor, friend and "go to" leader whose innate goodwill have made DETC a respected member of the higher education community today.

**Mr. Fred Roberts** is President of a professional consulting practice dedicated to assisting senior-level leaders and managers improve workplace and workforce performance. Mr. Roberts has more than 25 years of experience as an instructional designer, performance consultant, and manager of technology-based learning systems.

Fred has served as the Assistant Director for Training and Technology with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), as the Director of Distance Learn-

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**(DETC Award Recipients Honored, continued)**

ing & Technology at the Marine Corps Institute and as Head of Formal Schools Evaluation with the Naval Health Sciences Education and Training Command.

Fred holds a B.S. in Health Sciences from the University of Maryland and a Master's degree in Human Development from George Washington University. He is a certified facilitator for the Covey Leadership Institute's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" and is a recipient of the Hopkins Fellows in Change Management from Johns Hopkins University.

He has served on more than 30 DETC on-site evaluations, usually as Chair.

Fred has been one of the most reliable, hard-working, insight-providing and enthusiastic members of DETC's Corps of Evaluators. His insights and knowledge of the very best educational practices, particularly in curricula design tactics, have helped a generation of distance study educators enhance their institution's educational materials and learning outcomes.

His frequent presentations at DETC Workshops for more than a decade have helped raise the level of excellence in education in DETC institutions. Any DETC members attending one of the dozen Education Workshops held at the University of Notre Dame will be sure to recall Fred's colorful talks of how to write performance-based learning objectives, and his famous Notre Dame video enhanced lecture featuring the Lambert Airplane Driving School is now DETC legend!

The *DETC Distinguished Recognition Award* is awarded to individuals for their outstanding work on special projects that

have contributed to the advancement of DETC.

**Ms. Erika Yigzaw** currently serves as the Chief Institutional Officer (CIO) of the American College of Healthcare Sciences (ACHS). Before joining the College, she practiced corporate law with Bell Gully Buddle Weir, New Zealand's leading commercial law firm.

While practicing law, she was involved in the natural health industry in corporate establishment and development, regulatory compliance, mergers and acquisitions, and product development. In addition to her many responsibilities at ACHS, Erika serves as an advisor to the Aromatherapy Registration Council in the U.S. and presents at national conferences and local community events.

Erika has also completed the Master Gardener program through Oregon State University and volunteers extensively in the community in that capacity.

She graduated with a first class honors degree in law from the University of Otago Law School in Dunedin, New Zealand and was admitted to the New Zealand Law Society in 1995. Erika also holds a Bachelor's in Commerce degree from the University of Otago with a major in Education and Health Care Economics.

The 2012 Distinguished Recognition Award celebrates Erika's contributions to the DETC Business Standards Committee, the Technology SubCommittee, and various Task Forces.

With technical expertise, Erika facilitated the migration of DETC's online courses to eCollege. Additionally, she has dedicated her time and knowledge to

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**Ms. Erika Yigzaw, left, with Ms. Marie Sirney, Chair of the DETC Awards and Recognition Committee.**

### ***(DETC Award Recipients Honored, continued)***

many taskforce activities and conference presentations, including technology and outcomes assessment. Erika has served on many on-site evaluation visits on behalf of the DETC Accrediting Commission since 2003, as both the Education Standards Evaluator and the Business Standards Evaluator.

"I am thrilled and honored to receive this award from the DETC," she said. "To be selected from such an outstanding group to receive this award is particularly humbling. DETC's commitment to furthering excellence in distance education without exception, all while fostering a collegial environment, is truly inspiring. This is not an ordinary group: I am continually inspired by my peers at this organization and the work we do together to empower

our students to change their lives through education."

The *Distance Education Hall of Fame* includes outstanding personalities whose contributions and accomplishments for DETC merit permanent recognition. The names of recipients are engraved on a permanent plaque in the DETC office.

**Mr. Brook Ellis** recently retired as the Vice President of Education at Gemological Institute of America in Carlsbad, CA. His distinguished career in the jewelry industry began in 1959 with Henry Birks & Sons, Ltd., one of Canada's largest fine jewelry chain retailers.

Brook worked with Henry Birks & Sons until 1995, and ultimately achieved the position of Vice President of Fine Jewelry. During his tenure with Henry Birks and Sons, LTD, he also held positions with the American Gem Society, the 24 Karat Club of America, the Jewellers Vigilance Canada, Inc., Jewellery World Magazine, and the Jewelers Education Foundation. He served on GIA's Board of Governors from 1983-1995.

Brook received a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto, Canada in 1959. He received the American Gem Society's "Registered Jeweller" designation in 1961 and the "Certified Gemologist" in 1964.

Brook was elected to the DETC Board of Trustees in 2000 and was elected Second Vice President of DETC in 2001. He was on the DETC Accrediting Commission from 2002-2009. Brook also serves as the DETC Treasurer, a position he's held since April 2005. He received the DETC Dis-

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## ***(DETC Award Recipients Honored, continued)***

tinguished Service Award in 2007 and Distinguished Recognition in 2009.

Among his many achievements in the Distance Education field, Brook has:



**Mr. Brook Ellis**

- Touched the lives of tens of thousands of students around the world in his work as one of the premier distance study educators in the United States;
- Set an example for the distance education field as evidenced by the impeccable reputation of his institution, the Gemological Institute of America, wherein both the letter and the spirit of the Commission's standards have been steadfastly observed;
- Served as an outstanding evaluator on numerous DETC accrediting on-site evaluations;
- Worked steadfastly over two decades to enhance the image and public acceptance of DETC; and
- Severed faithfully and well as a member of the DETC Board of Trustees, as a member (for seven years) on the Accrediting Commission, and as DETC's Treasurer for seven years. In each of these leadership roles, he worked steadfastly to advance the effectiveness and image of the DETC.

## **NASASPS Elects DETC Director to Lifetime Membership**

At the 2012 meeting of the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS), the NASASPS Board of Directors elected DETC Executive Director Michael Lambert as an Honorary Lifetime Member of the organization.

"Only 9 individuals in history have received this distinctive honor, and Mr. Lambert is the first person who was not a State official to be named a Lifetime NASASPS Member," said Mr. John Ware, NASASPS President and Executive Director of the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools. "The award of this honor reflects the wonderful working relationship and cooperation between DETC and NASASPS during the past four decades."



**Mr. John Ware, (right), NASASPS President, congratulates DETC Executive Director Mr. Michael P. Lambert after his recent election as an Honorary Lifetime NASASPS Member.**

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# Michael Lambert Recognized as DETC's Person of the Year



**Mr. Michael P. Lambert, right, with Ms. Marie Sirney, Chair of the DETC Awards and Recognition Committee.**

Awarded to individuals within the DETC community or the higher education field who have made outstanding and permanent contributions to DETC over the years, the DETC *Person of the Year* award is the Council's highest honor. And this year, it was awarded to DETC Executive Director Michael Lambert.

Ms. Marie Sirney, Chair of the DETC Awards and Recognition Committee, presented Mr. Lambert with the award during the DETC's Annual Awards Luncheon, held April 17, 2012 as part of the DETC's 86th Annual Conference. The following is an excerpt from her award presentation:

*This year's Person of the Year Award should be more aptly titled the DETC*

*Person of the Century because he has devoted his life's work, over 40 years, to enhancing not just the image and public acceptance of DETC, but the entire field of distance education, eventually becoming one of its pivotal figures. Mike Lambert's interest in distance education began in 1968 when as a young lieutenant he was responsible for distance study course development in the United States Army Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, Virginia. In 1972 he was hired as an accrediting program coordinator for the National Home Study Council. He advanced through the ranks as Assistant Director in 1976 and Associate Director in 1987 until finally being elected Executive Director in 1992. In 1994, under his leadership, the National Home Study Council, founded in 1926, changed its name to the Distance Education and Training Council, just as the education world was turned upside down by the Internet and working adults all over this country embraced online learning.*

*Since that time he has led the organization through trials and triumphs. Committed to consumer protection for students, he has served on more than six hundred accreditation review committees in eight countries, been an advocate for peer-review accreditation, served on a myriad of educational advisory boards such as CHEA and the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, authored and co-authored more than five dozen publica-*

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## **(Michael Lambert Recognized as Person of the Year, continued)**

tions, and traveled this country far and wide impressing even our most hostile critics. Through it all he has maintained his cool and his sense of humor.

Whether it's a line from a beloved Jimmy Stewart movie or a lyric from an Eagle's song he knows just the right thing to say at even the tensest of moments.

Blessed with an encyclopedic memory, matched with a writer's flair for making even the most boring of topics fascinating, he has been at ease working with congressional staffers, Army generals, DOD officials, state legislators, the Father Confessor of the Catholic Church, and one hell's angel moonlighting as a cab driver in St. Joe, Missouri.

He has touched the lives and livelihood of each of us. Whether we have 100 or 100,000 students we are treated with the same careful attention and consideration. Whether your onsite visit is held in a small motel room with the exhibits displayed on the bed, or on the top floor of a Chicago high-rise you receive his careful attention and wise counsel.

He zeros right in on the value of the program, be it large or small. Mike somehow manages to juggle our personal interests with the interests of our entire membership.

No request from a member is too large or too small to warrant his attention. DETC has its stellar reputation because of his tireless efforts.

He works so hard and believes so strongly in this organization that I know, like me, you strive to earn his respect. To

share his company at a DETC-function, or on an evaluation team is a delight and quite often adventurous.

It's a difficult time for us in distance education but we have had the luxury of this clever, courageous, charming and chivalrous man directing us thorough the land mines.

Thank you Mike for leading us through treacherous waters this year; a year you've said has presented challenges unlike any you've experienced in 40 years.

We admire you, appreciate you, and thank you for ensuring that any student having the good fortune to register for a course or program at a DETC-accredited institution will receive at top-rate education.

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## **Get E-mail Updates from the DETC!**

Are you interested in receiving e-mail updates from DETC? You can visit the DETC website to sign up to receive messages from DETC regarding upcoming meetings and events, actions taken by the DETC Accrediting Commission, proposed revisions our for public comment, and more!

Visit [www.detc.org](http://www.detc.org) and enter your email address in the box on the home page to sign up!

And don't forget, you can also follow the DETC on Twitter (@DETCAccrediting and @DETCMeetings) or Like our facebook page ([www.facebook.com/DETCAccrediting](http://www.facebook.com/DETCAccrediting))!

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# 86th Annual Conference Breaks Record



More than 185 people gathered to learn, share, and network at the Distance Education and Training Council's 86th Annual Conference April 15-17, 2012 at the Wailea Beach Marriott Resort and Spa in Maui, Hawaii.

Attendees gathered for two days full of interesting and engaging sessions, including a panel presentation on the future of higher education accreditation and presentations from several of DETC's 2012 Outstanding Graduates.

"The 86th Annual Conference was fantastic; it exceeded our expectations and definitely raised the bar in terms of offering timely, relevant content and highly expert presenters," said DETC Executive Director, Michael P. Lambert. "And with more than double the attendance of our last Hawaiian Conference, there was more opportunity than ever for attendees to interact with and learn from

each other while enjoying the relaxed atmosphere and beautiful island scenery."

## Celebrating Forty Years of Service

Attendees at the 86th Annual Conference also celebrated an important anniversary—DETC Executive Director Michael P. Lambert's 40th Anniversary with the Council.

Tuesday evening's Closing Reception and Dinner featured a photo slide show of Mr. Lambert's history with DETC, from his start in 1972 through the last 40 years.

"It was a wonderful way to celebrate such a dedicated, hardworking person," said DETC Associate Director Sally Welch. "Seeing photos of Mike at work during the last 40 years really shows how integral he has been to DETC, and to distance education."



# DETC's 86th Annual Conference





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# DETC's 86th Annual Conference



# DETC's 86th Annual Conference







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Distance Education and Training Council  
1601 18th St. NW, Suite 2  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-234-5100  
[www.detc.org](http://www.detc.org)

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