

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Executive Director Appointed to Negotiated Rulemaking Committee**

The DETC Accrediting Commission is pleased to announce that Dr. Leah Matthews, DETC's Executive Director, has been appointed to serve as a member of the U.S. Department of Education's negotiated rulemaking committee on program integrity and improvement. Dr. Matthews will serve as a primary negotiator representing accrediting organizations.

The committee will be preparing proposed regulations to address program integrity and improvement issues for the Federal Student Aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Topics the committee is to address include state authorization for programs offered through distance education or correspondence education. The promulgation of state authorization for programs offered through distance education or correspondence education was originally part of the program integrity rules issued on October 29, 2010. This provision was overturned in federal district court because the Department of Education had not allowed for sufficient public review and comment on the regulation before publishing it in final form. The Department is bringing the regulation back to the table for another round of negotiated rulemaking.

"I am honored to have been chosen to participate in the negotiated rulemaking process," Dr. Matthews said. "The DETC is intimately familiar with state authorization for distance education programs and courses, and I look forward to engaging in a thoughtful and collaborative effort during the development of regulations."

Negotiated rulemaking is a process used by federal agencies such as the Department of Education to negotiate the terms and final language used in regulations under revision. The negotiated rulemaking committee will review material drafted by Department of Education staff and negotiate the final language of the regulations relating to Title IV program integrity and improvement issues.

#### **ABOUT DETC**

The Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) Accrediting Commission is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1926 that operates as a national accreditor of distance education institutions. DETC'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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MEDIA CONTACT:  
Leah Matthews, Executive Director  
(202) 234-5100 \* leah@detc.org

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Robert Chalifoux, Director, Media and Events  
(202) 234-5100 \* rob@detc.org