

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 8, 2019

DEAC Announces 93rd Annual Business Meeting and Candidates for Election to Board of Directors

In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the *Bylaws* of the Distance Education and Training Council (doing business as the Distance Education Accrediting Commission), notice is given to all members that the Annual Business Meeting will take place at 8:00 AM on Monday, April 8, 2019 at the Kimpton Epic Hotel in Miami. The *Bylaws* state that the Corporation shall meet annually to elect Directors from its membership, to receive annual committee reports, and to transact other business. The DETC Board of Directors is [proposing a revision to Article III, Section 7](#) of the DETC Bylaws. The [proposed revision can be found on the DEAC website](#), and will be reviewed during the Annual Business Meeting. The Annual Business Meeting is open to all members.

Board of Director Elections to Commence at Annual Business Meeting

The DEAC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for the DEAC Board of Directors:

Stella Garlick

*Vice-President, Administration &
Compliance, Martinsburg College*

Stephen Haas

*Director of Education, National
Paralegal College*

Traci Lee

*President, Sonoran Desert
Institute*

The Nominating Committee has worked closely with the Board of Directors to review and recommend candidates for the DEAC Board of Directors to serve as an institution representative. Throughout its deliberations, the Nominating Committee took into consideration the appropriate involvement of DEAC's communities of interest as well as the diversity of DEAC's membership and stakeholders. The three-year term for current institution representative Ms. Garlick will end on March 31, 2019. The Nominating Committee welcomes her candidacy to serve a second term and welcomes Mr. Haas and Ms. Lee as new candidates for the institution representative position on the board of directors.

An electronic ballot will be available to all DEAC members beginning on April 8, 2019 at the Annual Business Meeting and continuing through 6:00 pm eastern time on April 9, 2019.

Each DEAC-accredited institution represented at the Business Meeting is entitled to one vote. Attending the Annual Business Meeting and participating in the election is a concrete way institutions can participate in the continuity or orderly succession of DEAC's leadership and uphold a practice of good governance. Background information for the Board of Directors candidates is provided on the following pages.

ABOUT DEAC

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1926 that operates as a national 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.

###

MEDIA CONTACT:
Leah Matthews, Executive Director
(202) 234-5100 * leah.matthews@deac.org

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

Stella Garlick

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



Firstly, thank you to the DEAC institutional membership for giving me the opportunity to serve on the DEAC Commission for the last three years. My background in higher education spans thirty years and includes experience at every level of operations and compliance, within various institutional settings. This experience, coupled with my recent role as a DEAC Commissioner, has provided me with a deep understanding and unique perspective of the challenges faced by institutions of all sizes and at all levels in balancing the day-to-day needs of school operations while meeting accreditation standards

If re-elected to the Commission, my focus over the next term, would be to promote ways for DEAC to support institutions' continuous improvement and institutional effectiveness while allowing schools to innovate and remain competitive within the ever-growing distance learning arena.

During my term, I have been a Commission representative to the Standards Committee and worked on a sub-committee that has proposed a revision to the standards to allow for equivalent qualifications for faculty. I supported a proposal to allow for the increase in transfer credit in undergraduate programs from the current 75% maximum to 90%. I believe this truly supports college affordability and will result in greater flexibility for institutions and students. I also supported a proposal to allow 30-credit master's degree programs thereby allowing DEAC schools to be more aligned with regionally-accredited competitors.

I am the Vice-President of Administration at Martinsburg College and have been an active member of DEAC since 2009. Beginning as an instructor, thirty years ago, to today, seeing students succeed is something that will always inspire me and motivate me to do better for them and the institutions that serve them.

Thank you for the opportunity. It is an an honor to be a part of our dynamic learning community.



Stephen Haas

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



As a teacher and administrator for National Paralegal College since 2003 and its chief academic officer since 2008, I have spent almost my entire “working” life running the academic and regulatory aspects of NPC and have been involved in all aspects of the school’s operations. I have spearheaded and supervised many aspects of school operations, including assessment, course development, program development, educational media production and more. For example, I developed our school’s student mentoring, institutional research and placement assistance systems and I wrote our institutional effectiveness policy, internal procedures manual, course development manual and countless other

documents. I have also presented on various issues at a DEAC Workshop, the USDLA conference and the University of Wisconsin DTL conference. As content supervisor for our project, LawShelf Educational Media, I am on a never-ending mission to develop and refine content delivery strategies. I am confident that my experience gives me a big-picture view of the challenges facing institutions and that I can apply my pedagogical, administrative and regulatory experience for the benefit of the Commission and its members. Thank you for your consideration.



Traci Lee

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



Traci Lee, President of Sonoran Desert Institute (SDI), has over 30 years of experience in the education sector, across institutions of various structures and sizes. Her experience encompasses virtually all aspects of education, including admissions, financial aid, academics, career services, and management of multi-campus operations with both regional and national accreditation, domestically and internationally. Prior to her role with SDI, Traci held senior level management positions at Bridgepoint Education, Career Education Corporation, MedVance Institute (now Fortis), University of Advancing Technology, and University of Phoenix (Apollo Group), as well as providing consulting

services to a multitude of colleges and universities during her tenure with Campus Management Corporation (CMC) and through her own consulting company, TALEe Solutions.

Recognizing the challenges of working in a highly regulated and ever-changing environment, Traci has successfully implemented compliant operational solutions that also achieve institutional goals and provide superior levels of service to students.

