

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 8, 2017

DEAC Announces Candidates for Election to Board of Directors

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

Gordon Drummond

*President, Sessions College
for Professional Design*

Cheryl Hayek, Ed.D.

*Interim University President and
Provost, Grantham University*

Joe Manjone, Ed.D.

*Assistant Provost, Special
Programs, Columbia Southern
University*

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 institution members. 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. In addition, the Nominating Committee's work involved a meaningful assessment of the organization's present and future leadership needs reflective of mission; attention to continuity and orderly succession of the organization's leadership; and upholding a practice of good governance. DEAC is holding this election to fill positions currently held by Robert Mayes, President, Columbia Southern University, and Ann Rohr, President, Weston Distance Learning, when their terms expire on March 31, 2017.

An electronic ballot will be available to all DEAC members beginning on April 24, 2017 at the Annual Business Meeting and continuing through 6:00 pm eastern time on April 25, 2017. Please look for DEAC's announcement of the Annual Business meeting for more details on the voting procedure. We hope you will join us in San Antonio!

Dr. Leah Matthews, DEAC's Executive Director, encourages members to attend the Annual Conference and contribute to ongoing discussions of the ever changing landscape in distance education. "We are incredibly fortunate to have such a deep bench of talent to draw upon for board leadership," she said.

Background information for the Board of Directors candidates is provided on the following pages.

ABOUT DEAC

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) 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.

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Gordon Drummond

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



I am honored to be a candidate to serve on the DEAC Commission. I am a passionate believer in the role of accreditation in providing quality assurance and promoting school improvement in our education system. If elected to the Commission, I would strive to advance the high standards and robust evaluation/peer review process that are the hallmarks of DEAC.

As President of Sessions College, I have managed our institution's academic and compliance processes since 2001, navigating three DEAC accreditation renewals and tackling a broad range of regulatory challenges, including state licensure, DOD and VA compliance, Title IV approval, and state authorization/SARA.

Since 2007, I have been fortunate to serve on the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools both as a commissioner and as Commission Chair (2013-15). This MSA-CSS role has given me an invaluable perspective on how regional accreditation serves the needs of traditional, public sector education.

In 2001, DEAC accreditation gave Sessions College the tools and accountability structure to evolve from a rambunctious little startup into a Title IV institute of higher education. If elected, I will help DEAC maintain the highest quality standards in distance education for our member schools and our students.



Cheryl Hayek

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



Dr. Cheryl Hayek's 25-year background in education is reinforced by her deep commitment to serving the best interests of students, faculty, administrators and the public through quality academia. At the root of Dr. Hayek's depth and breadth of experience lies a firm belief that all institutions should be held to the utmost standards of integrity and quality student outcomes.

An active member of the DEAC since 2009, she has participated on several committees, contributed to the Handbook Reorganization Project, conducted site visits, presented at the 2009 and 2015 conferences, and served as Chair of the 2016 annual conference.

The industry as a whole has benefited from Dr. Hayek's experience. She is widely respected for her award-winning student support approach, VIP² (Visual, Immediate, Proactive and Personal), and Swaddled Support Services (SSS) retention model for adult learners. She has also earned high regard for her publications, most recently authoring a four-part series for *The Evolution* higher education publication on the subject of creating what she calls educational heliotropism.

With more than 20 years of executive leadership experience, Dr. Hayek continues to be a passionate ambassador for quality higher education. Serving as a DEAC Commissioner is an honor that substantiates her mission to ensure the best education experience for those seeking to improve their futures through higher learning.



Joe Manjone

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



I am honored to have this opportunity to stand for election to the Distance Education Accrediting Commission's Board of Directors. I would bring to this position my knowledge and personal experiences gained in secondary education and 50 years of higher education at for-profit, non-profit, public, private, national and regionally accredited universities.

Eighteen of these years have been at Columbia Southern University serving as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and President at Waldorf College. I have 3 years of secondary teaching and administrative experience and have held other university leadership positions including: Director, Dean, Program Chair, and Professor.

My affiliation with DEAC spans over 17 years and during that time I have had the privilege to gain a strong understanding of DEAC standards while serving as DETC's DOE Pilot DBA Program Coordinator; Program Chair of DEAC's First approved International Program; Accreditation Visit Evaluator; and Chair of the DETC Global Education Committee.

I have presented at DEAC Conferences, and currently serve as a member of the DEAC Standards Committee. If elected I will contribute my experience and knowledge in service and support of DEAC.

