

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
March 13, 2018

## **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:

**Caulyne Barron**

*Chief Academic Officer, Dunlap-Stone University*

**Chris Reeves**

*President, Shiloh University*

**Michael Curd**

*Vice President, Director of Education, Harrison Middleton 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 the election to fill two institution representative positions on the board of directors. The three-year terms for current institution representatives, Dr. Barron and Mr. Reeves will end on March 31, 2018. The Nominating Committee welcomes their candidacies to serve a second term and welcomes Mr. Curd as a new candidate for institution representative on the board of directors.

An electronic ballot will be available to all DEAC members beginning on April 23, 2018 at the Annual Business Meeting and continuing through 6:00 pm eastern time on April 24, 2018. 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 Diego!

Dr. Leah Matthews, DEAC's Executive Director, encourages members to attend the Annual Conference and participate in the election. "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 students who study at its accredited institutions.

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## Caulyne Barron

Candidate – Institution Member  
DEAC Board of Directors



I cannot understate how humbling it was when I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board two years ago. Since that time, I have served as a DEAC Commissioner, the Academic Review Committee Chair, as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, and as acting Chair. My first term was a master class in thoughtful deliberation, accreditation standards, and the unique value of DEAC and its institutions. I often joke that I ‘found my people’ when I took on this role. I am proud of my work on your behalf.

The variety of DEAC institutions requires a range of experience and perspectives on the Board. While I believe I am a diligent advocate for all institutions, I am often the loudest voice for smaller institutions; Dunlap-Stone University is a small, family-run and non-Title IV institution with a handful of degree and certificate programs. We were first accredited in 2003. As Chief Academic Officer, I wear many hats: accreditation, curriculum, assessment, licensure, faculty management, instructor, and special projects. I thrive on the variety and the chance to try new things with the goal of continuous improvement. My heart lies in teaching, curriculum development, and distance education best practices, evidenced by the presentations I have made at Annual Conference and Fall Workshops and my publications.

Helping students achieve their educational goals while working with organizations that support education has been the central thread of my career over the last 20 years. I have worked with traditional and non-traditional students in a variety of settings: overseeing academics and operations for for-profit and non-profit organizations, managing editorial content for a school-age publishing company, working in college admissions and public relations, and in other higher education settings. I completed both my EdD in Higher Education Administration and a MEd in Adult Education as a distance learner, contrasted by a very traditional liberal arts undergraduate experience. I know the non-traditional students many of our institutions serve because I was one.

It would be an honor to continue my service to the Commission as an accessible ear and tireless voice. 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.



## Christopher Reeves

Candidate – Institution Member  
DEAC Board of Directors



I am the president of Shiloh University, a nonprofit religious educational institution, located in southeast Iowa. Shiloh University has educational programs ranging from the associate to professional doctoral level. The University received its initial accreditation through the DEAC in January 2012 and was reaccredited in 2015.

Shiloh University was initially formed in the summer of 2006. From its inception I have been involved in every aspect of its development: from incorporation to the development of its online degree programs to its accreditation. Throughout this process I have promoted a culture of quality and

accreditation assuring a positive and successful experience for our students.

My professional background includes a career as a Certified Public Accountant, teaching and training in business and accounting, curriculum development, and over twenty-five years in leading or managing nonprofit organizations. As a member of the DEAC community I have participated in many site visits and have served as a Commissioner for the past three years, and as the Treasurer and Chair of the Accrediting Commission for the past year.

The quality, reputation, and future of distance education, and in particular the DEAC and its member institutions, is a great priority for me. I have an understanding of the issues and complexities of forming and operating a distance educational institution. I also have a great appreciation for the role and responsibilities of the commission and the staff. Therefore, it is important to me to continue to participate in the volunteer accreditation process through serving as a member of the DEAC Board and Accrediting Commission.



## Michael Curd

Candidate – Institution Member  
DEAC Board of Directors



Since the 1999 fall conference at Notre Dame, Michael Curd's DEAC participation includes online training classes, annual conferences, leadership meetings, workshops, high school conferences, international conferences, and serving as an Educational Evaluator and Chair for initial applicant and re-accreditation visits.

Education: Master of Education Higher and Adult Education, Executive Juris Doctor Concord Law School (DETC), Master of Arts Harrison Middleton University (DETC), American Council on Education and Harvard Graduate School of Education leadership programs.

Experience: oversee development of budgets, participate in high school and university audit reports, review accreditation reports, and implement State of Arizona and DEAC requirements. Participating in the American Academy of Liberal Education and AdvancED accreditation process; board of directors Sister Cities International (national), Arizona Sister Cities, Inc. (state) and Tempe Sister Cities (local) helping to develop budgets, manage finances and plan programs; Peace Corps Volunteer water and sanitation health education Zambia; member Society of International Business Fellows.

Experiencing distance education as a student, faculty member, administrator, and evaluator will support the board of directors. Coming from a small, liberal arts and sciences, non-career training, family owned institution, Michael Curd will give voice to help all institutions participate in the discussion that is shaping the direction of the organization.

