

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DEAC-Accredited Institution Representative Appointed to NACIQI**

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) is pleased to recognize and commend the appointment of Robert Mayes, Jr., Columbia Southern Education Group (CSEG) CEO, to a six-year term on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). The NACIQI advises the U.S. Secretary of Education on accreditation recognition and the eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education seeking to participate in Title IV Federal Student Aid programs. The NACIQI is an 18-member committee with membership appointed equally by the Secretary of Education, the Senate, and the House of Representatives. Robert was appointed by the House Minority Leader, Kevin McCarthy.

“The NACIQI plays a vitally important role in assuring that recognized accrediting agencies achieve and maintain the highest standards for accreditation,” said Mayes. “I am deeply humbled and honored to have been nominated and selected to join the committee.”

CSEG, a family held organization, owns Columbia Southern University (DEAC-accredited) and Waldorf University (HLC-accredited) serving a student body of approximately 33,000. Mayes, who has more than 25 years of experience in distance education, served as DEAC commissioner from 2010 – 2016.

“Robert Mayes will make a great contribution to NACIQI,” said Leah Matthews, DEAC’s executive director. “His extensive background in distance education, compliance analysis, educational outcomes and commitment to excellence will complement NACIQI’s focus on holding accrediting agencies accountable to quality standards for all students enrolled across all sectors of higher education.”

#### **ABOUT DEAC**

*The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1926 that devotes its accreditation process solely to distance education institutions. Recognized by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, DEAC’s primary focus is to ensure a high standard of educational quality in the distance education institutions it accredits and accountability to the students who study at its accredited institutions.*

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