

**IN THE FIELD:
NC-SARA'S INSTITUTION
CONFERENCE**

July 20, 2021



AGENDA

Pre-Conference Session

July 19, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time

If you or your institution is new to SARA, the *In The Field* pre-conference session will provide you with an overview of state authorization, information about how SARA works, institutional requirements for maintaining SARA participation, and resources available to institutions. We will also host a Q&A session to address your questions about participating in SARA and SARA policy. Have a question? Send it to info@nc-sara.org.

- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome**
- 10:15 a.m. **What Is State Authorization?**
This session will provide an overview of state authorization.
Shari L. Miller, Institutional Compliance MATTERS
Alan Contreras, NC-SARA Consultant
- 11:15 a.m. **Why SARA?**
This session will discuss the structure of SARA along with resources available to institutions, including website resources, webinars, and the *SARA Policy Manual* and forms.
NC-SARA Staff
- 11:45 a.m. **Break**
- 12:15 p.m. **Frequently Asked Questions – and Answers!**
This session will address frequently asked questions. Have a question? Send it in advance to info@nc-sara.org and we'll make sure to address it!
Leeann Fields
Executive Director
Office of Educational Compliance
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

NC-SARA Staff
- 1:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

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In The Field Conference

July 20, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time

In The Field will feature engaging sessions and featured speakers for institutional personnel working in interstate distance education, state authorization reciprocity compliance, academic planning, enrollment management, and institutional research, among other topics. While focused on institutions participating in SARA, this free 1-day conference will also be open to SARA State Portal Entities and regional SARA compact staff.

9:00 a.m. **Welcome** – Lori Williams
President and CEO
NC-SARA

9:15 a.m. **Key Note Speaker:** Dr. Peter Smith - Assuring High-Quality Distance Learning in America:
NC-SARA's Educational Mission and Its Socio-Economic Implications
Orkand Chair and Professor of Innovative Practices in Higher Education
University of Maryland Global Campus

Peter Smith, renowned expert in distance education, will keynote *In The Field*, setting the stage for a day of conversations and sessions about student access and support in distance education programs; meeting SARA state authorization requirements; distance education enrollment trends and predictions; and the value of and requirements for SARA participation for colleges and universities. Dr. Smith is a former US Congressman from Vermont, founder of the Vermont community college system, UNESCO leader, founding president of Cal State Monterey Bay, and well known author of several higher education volumes. Information on Peter's books can be found at https://www.amazon.com/Peter-smith/e/B001K7XTIC?ref=dbs_p_ebk_r00_abau_000000

10:15 a.m. **Break**

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10:30 a.m.

Participating in SARA: Institutional Requirements for a Trouble-Free Experience

This panel of institutional representatives and State Portal Entities will discuss the requirements for institutional participation in SARA. Topics will include: eligibility, application commitments, annual renewal processes, and the SPE perspective on the process.

Tyson Heath

Senior Manager for Academic Engagement, University Compliance
Title IX Coordinator
Western Governors University

Sara Cowall

Director, State Authorization and Grants and Chair, Institutional Review Board
Granite State College

Terrence Scarborough

Director of SARA North Carolina (SARA State Portal Entity)
North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

Moderator: Mary Larson

Executive Director for Student and Institution Support
NC-SARA

SARA SHORTS

SARA Shorts are brief presentations about SARA-related activities relevant to college and university personnel. Hear from a variety of voices on the following topics: SARA data, the value and cost savings of SARA participation, SARA policy participation, and professional licensure resources.

11:20 a.m.

SARA Short: Fun with Data. Why Is Data Reporting Important? Get a refresher on why institutions are required to report enrollment and out-of-state learning placements.

Anne Klingen

Director of Online Design and E-Learning
Outreach & Continuing Education
University of Mississippi

Marianne Boeke

Senior Director for Research and State Support
NC-SARA

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11:30 a.m. Break

12:00 p.m. **Quality in the 21st Century: Distance Education at the Crossroads: A Panel of Distance Education Quality Experts**

This panel of distance education quality experts will talk about current ideas for assuring quality in distance education, including the role of accreditation, standards for quality, continuous improvement, student support and consumer protections, and equitable student outcomes. Hear their perspectives and conversations on these important quality-related topics.

Deb Adair
Executive Director
Quality Matters

Leah Mathews
Executive Director
Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)

Carlos Morales
President
TCC Connect Campus -Tarrant County College

Moderator: Lori Williams
President and CEO
NC-SARA

1:15 p.m. **SARA Short: SARA Cost Savings Project and Calculator.** Learn how SARA participation is reducing institution state authorization costs.

Heather Jenkins
Assistant Director of Academic Compliance
Office of Accreditation & Authorization
Franklin University

Rachel Christeson
Associate Director for Research and Data Analysis
NC-SARA

1:30 p.m. Break

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1:45 pm. **SARA Short: What Institutions Need to Know about SARA's Professional Licensure Requirements.** Learn how one institution meets the requirements of professional licensure general and direct disclosure requirements.

Christopher Fagan
Senior Corporate Counsel
University of Phoenix – University Legal Services

Heidi L. Callender
Senior Corporate Counsel
University of Phoenix – University Legal Services

Jeannie Yockey-Fine
General Counsel
NC-SARA

2:00 p.m. **SARA Short: Institutions' Opportunities to Comment During the SARA Policy Review Cycle.** Did you know institutions have an opportunity to comment on SARA policy? Learn more about the process.

Melanie Booth
Senior Director of Educational Programs and Communications
NC-SARA

Marianne Boeke
Senior Director for Research and State Support
NC-SARA

2:15 p.m. **SARA Short: An Update on the SARA Source, A Catalog of SARA Programs and Courses.** What is the SARA Source? Is the participation process complicated? Get the answers to these questions and more.

Kim Bradford
Director of Institutional Assurance
University of Arkansas System eVersity

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Dan Shisler
Director of Marketing and Web
University of Arkansas System eVersity

Yovani Pina
Director of Information Technology
NC-SARA

Nick Ortiz
Application Programmer/Analyst
NC-SARA

Mary Larson
Executive Director for Student and Institution Support
NC-SARA

2:45 - 3:00 **Closing Session & Concluding Remarks**

Lori Williams
President and CEO
NC-SARA

Mary Larson
Executive Director for Student and Institution Support
NC-SARA