

NATIONAL SEARCH PROSPECTUS

President



The NC-SARA Board of Directors invites applications and nominations for the position of President. This is an extraordinary opportunity and will require a President of considerable experience, skill, and collaborative spirit. A capable leader, team builder and manager of people, programs, and processes. Ability to successfully engage across the full spectrum of constituencies in the higher education community. The President reports to the Board and works collaboratively with internal partners in the leadership, management, and strategic progression of the NC-SARA organization.

NC-SARA & SARA

The [National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements \(NC-SARA\)](#) is a private nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)] that is dedicated to expanding students' access to postsecondary educational opportunities and ensure more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of state authorization of distance education programs.

The [State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement \(SARA\)](#) is a voluntary agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establishes comparable standards regulating postsecondary distance education. NC-SARA works in close partnership with the four regional higher education compacts to implement SARA and helps states/districts/territories, institutions, students, and policymakers understand the purpose and benefits of participating in SARA.

Today, more than 2300 institutions in 49 member states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all voluntarily participate in SARA with nearly six million students enrolled exclusively in distance education programs at SARA-participating institutions.

NC-SARA is a membership organization where the members are the states, districts, and territories that voluntarily agree to SARA. Institutions elect to participate in SARA and together we serve students by providing access to quality interstate education.

WHY NC-SARA & SARA MATTER

- Provides opportunity and access for students to participate in postsecondary distance education offerings across state lines.
- Reduces costs and bureaucracy for students and institutions.
- Improves coordination among states/districts/territories on higher education opportunities and related policy considerations.
- Harmonizes policies and procedures among regions to make the reciprocal recognition of state authorization as seamless and uniform as possible.
- Provides valuable postsecondary distance education data.

NC-SARA PARTNERS

NC-SARA and the four regional higher education compacts work in close partnership to implement the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). The four regional compacts, listed below, oversee implementation and execution of SARA in their respective regions, and NC-SARA coordinates the SARA work of the regional compacts, ensures that SARA has consistent nationwide coverage, and maximizes efficient operations of SARA.

Together, the five partners help states/districts/territories and public and private institutions work cooperatively to expand access to quality distance education within their regions.

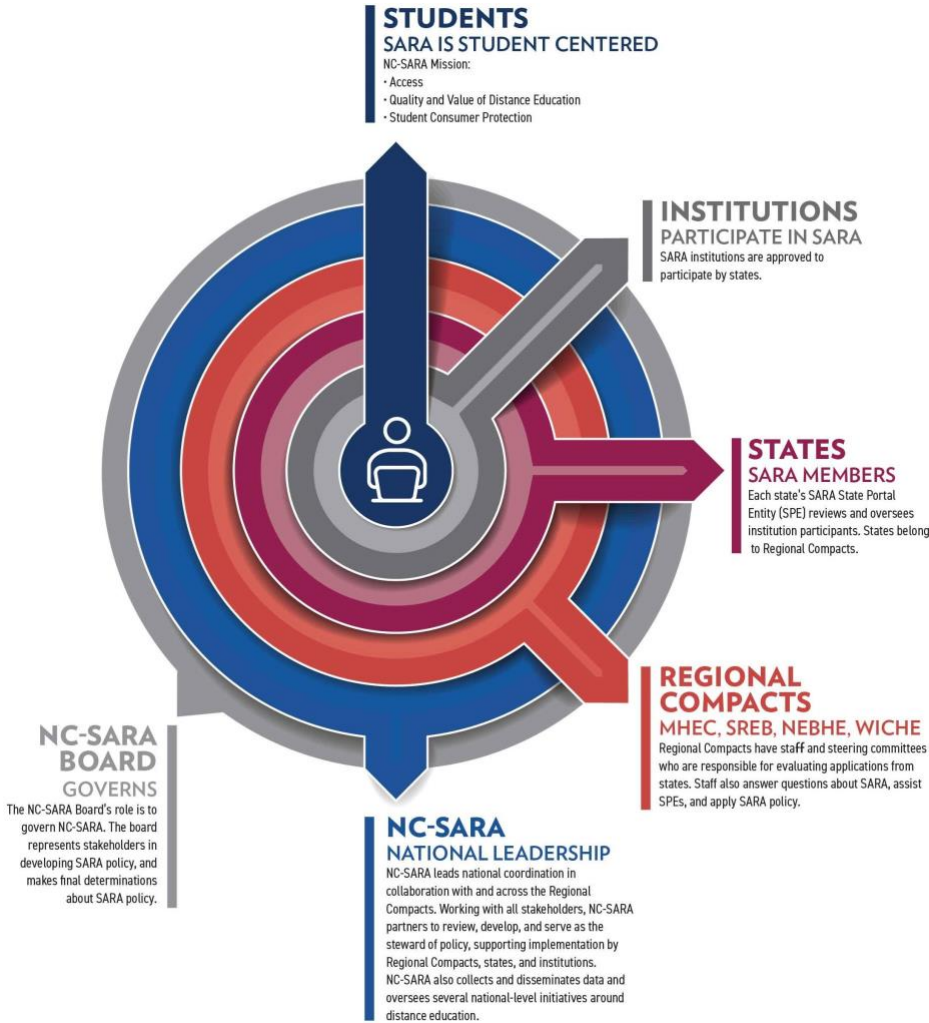
Regional higher education compacts:

- Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
- New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)
- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

[Learn more about the four regional higher education compacts and their work to implement SARA](#)

Each of the four regional compacts that administer SARA has a regional steering committee that provides oversight of the state members within their region. [Learn more about the regional compacts and their steering committees.](#)

Each state also designates a State Portal Entity (SPE) that oversees SARA participating institutions in each member state. [Learn more and find State Portal Entity contact information.](#)



FAST FACTS

- **49** states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are SARA members.
- More than **2,300 institutions** participate in SARA.
- Nearly **six million students** were enrolled exclusively in distance education programs at SARA-participating institutions
- SARA is a **voluntary agreement** among member states/districts/territories and entities that no longer wish to participate in such an agreement may simply withdraw.
- All **accredited degree-granting institutions** in SARA member states/districts/territories– public, private, independent, non-profit, and for-profit – that meet SARA requirements, have the opportunity to participate in SARA.
- Participating institutions must adhere to participation requirements including demonstrating the institution is authorized to operate in its home state, maintaining their accreditation and remaining in good financial standing.
- Participating institutions and member states/districts/territories adhere to a set of [student consumer protections](#) designed to provide oversight of distance offerings.
- Institutions pay between \$2,000-\$6,000 annually to NC-SARA, based on enrollment – a starkly [more affordable investment](#) when compared to paying fees to states/districts/territories individually that could total upwards of 13 times this amount.

SARA FOR STUDENTS

NC-SARA plays an important role in supporting consumer protections for students who take advantage of interstate distance education. Not only does it work with the regional compacts and states/districts/territories to facilitate interstate resolution of student complaints, it also helps support students in locating sources for determining information such as program applicability for professional licensure, facilitating concerns about institutional accountability or educational experience.



CORE WORK & STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Provide support to the NC-SARA Board, Board Committees/Taskforce.
- Collaborate with the regional higher education compacts, regional and inter-regional steering committees, State Portal Entities and institutions.
- Facilitate the policy modification process.
- Develop and communicate a clear, compelling message to constituents regarding the value of the proposition of NC-SARA.
- Employ NC-SARA's broad collaborative relationships with accreditors, states/districts/territories, federal agencies and institutions to promote improvements in access to distance education programs throughout the nation.
- Achieve operational excellence.

SARA POLICY MODIFICATION PROCESS

In June 2022, the NC-SARA Board adopted a revised process for making changes to SARA Policy -- the SARA Policy Modification Process. This process went into effect starting in January 2023.

This new process reflects the following guiding principles: transparency; collaboration; consistency; and clear and open communication among regional compacts, states/districts/territories, institutions, NC-SARA, and other stakeholders.

The President will be highly involved in the successful implementation and refinement of this new process.

THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT

The President's role can be broadly represented in four general areas.

First, the President is responsible for the overall management of the NC-SARA organization. The President monitors and delegates administrative and operational functions to the executive leadership team and staff. [Learn more about the NC-SARA staff.](#)

Second, the President reports directly to the Board and works closely with it to develop a strategic plan, budget, key initiatives, programs, and policies. This includes working closely with the Board Chair and Executive Committee in addition to providing support to other Board committees and organization of Board meetings. [Learn more about the NC-SARA Board of Directors.](#)

Third, the President works in partnership with the regional compact presidents and their staff for the effective implementation of SARA. Collaboration with and support of the inter-regional and regional steering committees, and member states/districts/territories is a critical part of the role. The

President also oversees the facilitation of the policy modification process, facilitation of resolutions, support to institutions and students.

Fourth, the President advocates for SARA and ensures SARA's and NC-SARA's purposes are widely and accurately understood. The President builds relationships with external constituents including consumer protection advocates, other state officials, and the higher education regulatory triad: state regulators, accreditors and the U.S. Department of Education, aimed at creating trust and common ground toward the end goal of benefiting student access to quality distance education.

The President will be required to travel extensively. Approximately 40-50% of their time will be spent representing NC-SARA at various meetings and conferences throughout the United States. The NC-SARA organization is located in Boulder, CO and the President will be required to either live or have in-person presence at regularly scheduled intervals in Boulder.

The President will enter an organization that is highly appreciated and well established, with a strong, supportive Board and a capable staff. They will play a major role in charting the successful progression of NC-SARA.

Salary range: \$300,000 to \$375,000 annual

NC-SARA offers paid health, dental, vision, life, short-term, and long-term disability insurance for the employee with available coverage (partially paid by NC-SARA) for family members.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- An advanced degree.
- A breadth of experience in postsecondary education.
- Significant understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the regulatory triad and a substantive background in postsecondary oversight of distance education.
- High in skills of collaboration, diplomacy, negotiation, and communication.
- Comprehensive knowledge of membership organizations.
- Experience working with a Governing Board to establish strategic priorities, budget development, and exercise fiscal prudence.
- Ability to attract, manage, and collaborate with talented people.
- Highly developed communication skills of listening, writing, and speaking.

- Habits of respect, consultation, good will, and humor.
- Thoughtful perspectives on potential paths forward for the organization.
- The resolve to maintain integrity and employ tact to say “no” without offense.



PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- A Doctorate degree.
- Deep knowledge of state authorization of higher education, accreditation, the regional compacts, and the politics of state and federal rulemaking.
- Experience collaborating with State Attorneys General and other student advocate/consumer protection organizations.

KEY ATTRIBUTES

THE NEXT PRESIDENT WILL BE

- A passionate advocate for higher education and distance education.
- A strong supporter of student success.
- An inspiring communicator and collaborator with the skill and intuition necessary to hear, understand, and unify multiple perspectives of the complex issues facing the organization.
- A leader who demonstrates diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as paramount values and insists on their incorporation and reflection throughout priorities, actions, and initiatives.
- An individual with the highest personal integrity, ethics, and an executive presence demonstrating a strong moral compass with kindness and humility.
- An individual who possesses the financial acumen required to manage a financially complex institution.
- A leader with organizational insight to facilitate change, one who is industrious and resourceful, with an understanding of where resources exist and how to access and leverage them.
- An astute listener who makes it a priority to include the staff, and key players of the organization.

- A motivator who leads by inspiring commitment to the organization and its objectives.
- A strategic, critical thinker who incorporates a combination of data and perspectives to inform decisions for the benefit and future of the organization.
- An individual who develops and empowers other leaders to perform with excellence and accountability.
- A leader possessing the stature and presence to represent NC-SARA effectively before diverse, senior-level bodies.
- A leader with a nonpartisan, agenda-free approach to decision-making.



QUALITY OF LIFE - BOULDER

Boulder is a perfect balance of urban and outdoors. Known for its stellar food scene, breweries, an always-exciting downtown and more outdoor activities than you can count, the city is just 30 minutes northwest of Denver, where the Rocky Mountains meet the plains.

Catch a glimpse of some of Boulder's wildlife while strolling, hiking, or biking through 300 miles of trails and 45,000 acres of open space, people-watch at an outdoor cafe or restaurant, or check out a top museum or a show.

The City of Boulder sits 5,430 feet above sea level, and Boulder enjoys 300-plus days of sunshine a year and moderate weather. Last checked, there were 106,392 residents in Boulder.

Truly one of the key attractors of the job, Boulder is one of America's "brainiest" cities. And, Boulder ranked as the No. 1 metro area in U.S. News' Best Places to Live in the U.S. in 2021-2022. It's the second year in a row that Boulder has taken the top spot and is most certainly one of the best places to live in Colorado.

NOMINATIONS & APPLICATIONS

The Search Committee invites letters of interest and nominations to be submitted directly to the search firm, Anthem Executive. Correspondence should include a resume/CV and a letter of interest describing relevant experience and interest in the position, and should be submitted to Scott Watson, Michael Ballew, JR Wheless, or Hank Bounds, or Florene Stawowy at:

PresidentNCSARA@AnthemExecutive.com

While applications and nominations will be accepted until a new President is selected, interested parties are encouraged to submit their materials right away to assure optimal consideration. Expressing interest is the first step in receiving consideration and does not make one an applicant for the position.



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