



NC-SARA SARA Portal Advisory Committee 2025

Purpose:

The Sara Portal Advisory Committee, comprising a group of dedicated State Portal Entities (SPEs), serves a dual-purpose mission within our organization. Not only does this committee come together every other month to tackle the technical challenges and opportunities for enhancement within the SARA Portal, but it also delves into the complex policy-related issues that emerge across states and regions. These "super users" of the portal provide invaluable hands-on guidance, advocating for functionalities and improvements that resonate with the needs of all SPEs. Beyond the technical aspects, the committee's discussions on policy aim to foster a more cohesive and cooperative interstate and interregional framework, ensuring that the SARA Portal not only meets technical standards of excellence but also aligns with the broader policy objectives and regulatory landscapes faced by our users. This balanced focus ensures that the portal evolves in a way that is both technologically robust and sensitive to the dynamic policy environment in which our states and regions operate.

Committee Members:

- NC-SARA Conveners: **Jared Abdirkin, Emilie Crawford, Angela Lee**
- **Charlotte Ochs**, Director, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), NEBHE
- **Sara Appel**, Director of M-SARA, Policy & Research, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
- **Alicia Armijo**, Constituent Services Coordinator & NC-SARA Coordinator, New Mexico Higher Education Department
- **Jennifer Armour**, Associate Director Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
- **Emily Bjornberg**, Senior Consultant, Connecticut Office of Higher Education
- **Darlene Derricott**, Director of Academic Services, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
- **James Farhat**, Departmental Specialist, Employment & Training, Postsecondary Schools and State Approving, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
- **Molly Hall-Martin**, Director, W-SARA, Policy Analysis and Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
- **Elisa Jaden**, Regional SARA Director, Postsecondary Student Access and Success, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

- **Casey Kohler**, Administrative Support Specialist, New York State Education Department
 - **Ron Leonard**, Director of Special Initiatives, Alabama Commission on Higher Education
 - **Yolanda Diane McCree**, Senior Licensing Program Coordinator, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
 - **Elizabeth Walker**, Coordinator for Academic Affairs Administration, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
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- Invited guests / ad hoc members as agenda determines (TBD)