

# ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT 2020

Released January 25, 2021

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# MEAC'S MISSION

*The Midwifery Education Accreditation Council's mission is to promote excellence in midwifery education through accreditation. It creates standards and criteria for the education of midwives. MEAC standards incorporate the nationally recognized core competencies and guiding principles set by the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and the requirements for national certification of the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM). MEAC's accreditation criteria for midwifery education programs reflect the unique components and philosophy of the Midwives Model of Care.*

*The purpose of MEAC is to establish standards for the education of competent midwives, and to provide a process for self-evaluation and peer evaluation for diverse educational programs. MEAC is a non-profit organization approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency.*

# MEAC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board is MEAC's primary decision-making body. The Board is composed of peers, educators, practitioners, academic and administrative personnel, and public members. The Board is elected by Member Schools.

- President: Cassaundra Jah, CPM, MS
- President Elect: Katie Krebs, MPH
- Vice President of Outreach and Development: Kristi Ridd-Young, BS
- Vice President of Accreditation: Safiya McCarter, ND, MSAOM
- Treasurer: Scottie Hale Buehler, CPM, Ph.D
- Secretary, Public Member: Aimee Eden, Ph.D
- Karen Ehrlich, CPM, LM, MA
- Public Member: Elon Geffrard, BS, ICCCE, CLC, CD (DONA)
- Gina Gerboth, MPH, RM, CPM, IBCLC
- Whitney Mesyef, BA, JD
- Carolina Nkouaga, MPH, LM, CPM
- Abigail Reece, Ph.D, CNM, RN
- Public Member: Sandra Lee Wise, Ph.D

# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION

## 2020 in Brief

2020 was a year of upsets in the world of accreditation (and higher education). We saw schools scramble to put distance education options in place when it became clear that it wasn't safe to continue in-person education after COVID-19 arrived. We all waited on the edge of our seats for news and guidance from the Department of Education about how long waivers for the temporary use of distance ed would be allowed, what kind of extensions could be granted, and how site visits were going to proceed.

At the same time, MEAC completed the multi-year process of reviewing, revising, and releasing our new Standards for Accreditation as well as releasing updates to our accreditation policies and procedures. Finally, MEAC was under review as we were going through the process of renewing our recognition by the Department of Education (decision scheduled for February 25, 2021).

## Looking at 2021

As the new 2020 Standards for Accreditation begin to be implemented, MEAC will be working on a companion document to go with the standards. This companion document will give supplemental information to help explain MEAC's standards and will serve as a valuable resource for potential schools and long-time Member Schools alike.

On a broader note, MEAC is anticipating further discussions about what accreditation and higher education look like in the age of COVID and beyond, on top of the normal questions and concerns that usually arise. As we move further into this year and into these conversations, MEAC's accreditation staff look forward to connecting with our Member Schools.

**Amari Fauna**  
**Director of Accreditation**  
January 20, 2021

# OUR ACCREDITATION STAFF

The accreditation staff are the coordinators responsible for ensuring that report cycles follow published processes and for contributing to consistency between reviews. The accreditation staff also serve as experts in MEAC accreditation when interpreting MEAC Standards, answering questions, and providing informal feedback to institutions/programs.

- **Director of Accreditation: Amari Fauna, BS**
  - Before coming to MEAC, Amari worked at a MEAC Member School in a number of roles, where she coordinated institutional accreditation efforts, state degree authorizations, federal compliance with Title IV programs, and oversaw institutional processes such as policy and procedures, publication of student handbooks. Amari also has experience in outreach education, behavioral health, assisted living, and end-of-life care. Amari was a MEAC Accreditation Coordinator prior to becoming the Director of Accreditation.
- **Accreditation Coordinator: Rachael Bommarito, Ph.D**
  - Rachael is a social science researcher who studies direct-entry midwifery and planned home birth in high-resource settings. In recent years, she has worked as a research associate at the University of Minnesota and an adjunct professor at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Rachael also has experience in the health sector. Between 1997 and 2007, she worked as a personal care attendant, health care assistant, public health educator, and doula. She served as a MEAC ARC volunteer from 2015 to 2016.
- **Accreditation Coordinator: Marissa Delgado Ohoyo, BS**
  - Marissa worked as a midwife, birth assistant and doula before beginning work at a MEAC Member School. As a MEAC school administrator for over 13 years, they served in various roles including Clinical Coordinator and Program Supervisor. From 2015-2017 they volunteered as an ARC member for MEAC.

# OUR ACCREDITATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) MEMBERS

ARC members are peers, responsible for conducting comprehensive reviews of all institution/program applications for initial accreditation, renewal of accreditation, and some substantive changes. ARC members are appointed by the Director of Accreditation in coordination with the MEAC Board President. Member Schools are given the opportunity to request alternate appointments.

- Claudia Breglia, Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery
- Dolly Browder
- Justine Clegg, Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery
- Teresa Cramer, Birthwise Midwifery School
- Sharon DeJoy, Florida School of Traditional Midwifery
- Heidi Filmore, Birthwise Midwifery School
- Rachel Hargy, Florida School of Traditional Midwifery
- Diane Holzer
- Shira Jacobs, Bastyr University Master of Science in Midwifery Program
- Deborah Kaley
- April Kline, Midwives College of Utah
- Megan Koontz, Midwives College of Utah
- Elizabeth Kukura
- Melissa Mayo
- Suzy Myers, Bastyr University
- Chrissy Owens
- Nichole Reding
- Kaylee Ridd, Midwives College of Utah
- Patricia Ross
- Hilary Schlinger
- Connie Tucker

Thank you to all the ARC members for all the work you put in!

*(Did you know that when you volunteer you can earn CEUs?)*

# 2020 ACCREDITATION ACTIVITIES

## Monitoring Reports

- Number: 12
- Focus Benchmarks (2013 Standards): 2018 KI-13, I.B1, I.C5, II.C1, II.D1, II.D2, II.E2, III.B3, III.C1, III.D1, IV.C1, IV.C4, IV.D1, IV.D2, V.A1, V.A2, V.B1, V.B2, V.B3, V.C1, V.C2, V.C4, V.C5, V.D1, V.D2, VI.A1, X.A1

## Compliance Reports

- Number: 7
- Focus Benchmarks (2013 Standards): 2018 KI-5, I.C2, II.E2, III.A5, V.B2, V.B4, V.D3

## Initial and Renewal of Accreditation Reports

- Part 1 (4)
- Part 2 Self Evaluation Reports (6)
- Part 2 Additional Information Reports (4)
- Part 4 Response to Draft ARC Reports (3)

## Site Visits

- National College of Midwifery (March 2020, virtual visit as part of reaccreditation)
- Birthwise School of Midwifery (June 2020, virtual visit as part of substantive change)
- Birthwise School of Midwifery (October 2020, virtual visit as part of reaccreditation)

## Substantive Changes

- Legal Entity (1)
- Distance Education (1)

## Accreditation Decisions Made

- Preaccreditation (0)
- Initial Accreditation (1)
- Renewal of Accreditation (3)
- Continuation of Accreditation (0)
- Removal of Probation (1)
- Substantive Changes (2)
- Adverse Actions (0)



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORTS COMPILED DATA

This data is being provided for MEAC Member Schools to use in planning and improvement processes. Member Schools may wish to use their submitted 2019 Annual Reporting Workbook and 2019 Annual Report Board Reports to make a comparative analysis between their individual data and the compiled data below.

## Key Indicator 2: Assets to Liabilities Ratio

- Evaluates institution's most recent fiscal year
- N= 7 institutions (two institutions were not included as audit data was not available at the time of reporting)
- Range: 1.098 to 100
- Median: 2.507

## Key Indicator 5: Enrollment Count and Change

- Evaluates enrollment as of 12/31/2019 compared to previous year
- N= 9 institutions and programs (one institution was not included as it is under a teach-out and is expected to decline in enrollment as a part of that, another institution was not included as this was the first annual report it submitted and did not have prior data)
- Range: -14% to 55%
- Median change: -4%
- Total Count: 714 students enrolled as of 12/31/2019
- Range per Institution: 6-198
- Range per Program: 0 to 167
- Median Count per Institution: 57
- Median Count per Program: 25

## Key Indicator 6: Enrollment Change in Distance/Correspondence Ed

- Evaluates enrollment as of 12/31/2019 compared to previous year
- N= 4 institutions
- Range: -14% to 55%
- Median: 12%

## Key Indicator 7: Student Retention

- Evaluates retention of cohorts enrolling in each program during years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018
- N= 17 programs (one program did not count toward this measure as it did not have any data to report)
- Range: 60% to 100%
- Median: 89%

## Key Indicator 8: Student Completion

- Evaluates most recent five-year period within which cohorts have reached 150% of the normal time to completion, years evaluated vary by individual program
- N= 16 programs (two programs did not count toward this measure due not having any data to report)
- Range: 13% to 100%
- Median: 49%

## Key Indicator 9: NARM Exam Pass Rate

- Evaluates students from each program taking the NARM exam in years 2017, 2018, and 2019
- N= 13 programs (five programs did not count toward this measure due to either not leading to NARM certification or not having any data to report)
- Range: 50% to 100%
- Median: 100%
  
- Total Count (2019): 98
- Range per Institution/Program: 1-25
- Median Count per Institution/Program: 5