

# The ACCSCT Standard

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The Accrediting Commission of  
Career Schools and Colleges  
of Technology

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## ACCSCT Celebrates Success of 2008 Professional Development Conference



*Dr. Paul Bott, Chairman of the Commission, kicks off the 2008 Professional Development Conference*

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On October 5-7, 2008, ACCSCT hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) in Bethesda, Maryland. Over 250 representatives from ACCSCT member institutions and the higher education community attended this year's PDC and heralded the conference as a tremendous success. By many accounts, this year's PDC exceeded the success of last year's inaugural conference in San Francisco and provided attendees with valuable and useful information from an array of excellent presenters.

The theme of this year's conference, *In the Service of Students: The Foundation for the Future* underscored the Commission's belief that as an accrediting body partnering with our member schools, we collectively strive to provide the greatest opportunity for students to be successful by offering programs of high educational quality and services geared towards supporting student performance.

The conference also provided the Commission with an opportunity to share publicly our many accomplishments over the past year, including recognizing individuals who have made important contributions to the ACCSCT community.

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This year's PDC kicked-off on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, with a series of pre-conference workshops that were specifically tailored to meet the needs of ACCSCT-accredited institutions. Dr. Michale McComis, Associate Executive Director, and Dr. Michela Perrone of MMP Associates facilitated a workshop entitled *Finding Your Leadership Style*, which was designed to help school administrators to identify their own leadership style and gain an understanding of how that style relates to enhancing school success. At the *Going Degree Granting Workshop*, Leah Matthews, Director of Institutional Compliance and Agency Recognition, and Dr. Juanita Gurubatham, Associate Director of Institutional Development, provided a comprehensive overview of the Commission's expectations for submitting degree programs to ACCSCT, and discussed the important role that general education plays in a degree program. Finally, Christopher Lambert, Associate Director of Commission Relations, facilitated a highly interactive workshop based on the *ACCSCT Monograph Series*, which provided guidance to schools on faculty development planning, program advisory committees, and institutional assessment and improvement planning in an effort to assist institutions to maximize performance and ensure that students are well prepared to enter the workforce. As noted by one workshop participant, "the best part about the workshops was the 'straight talk' about accreditation, which is incredibly valuable for school operators."

This year's PDC theme and focus on our students as the foundation for our future was amplified by the first Keynote Address, *The Young and the Restless: How Generation Y is Changing Our Workforce*, where Dr. Michelle Marks, an Associate Professor of Management at George Mason University, provided an overview of the character-shaping events and perspectives that distinguish four generations in today's workplace. Dr. Marks also highlighted the socio-economic conditions that make generational clashes more likely now than in previous times. Dr. Mark's thought-provoking remarks included several organizational strategies and practices designed to help conference participants better educate, recruit, retain, and motivate younger generations.

The Commission's other Keynote speaker Dr. Howard Block, Managing Director of Knowledge Investment Partners, also focused on students and the future. Dr. Block, in his Keynote Address, *Too Many College Students*, outlined his belief that for too many students, a traditional college education is simply unnecessary. Dr. Block challenged the current emphasis of a college degree, underscoring his position that employers must make a more concerted effort to validate a graduate's knowledge, skills, and attitudes in order to ensure a shift in the status-quo. Dr. Block challenged conference participants to shift their thinking on the purpose and value of higher education and to focus on the direct educational needs of students in relation to the workforce.

In addition to these Keynote addresses, the PDC included breakout sessions covering student focused topics such as:

- Using Data for Assessment Purposes presented by Dr. Michale McComis, Associate Executive Director;
- Emerging Issues in Distance Education featuring Dr. Michael Offerman from Capella Education Corporation and Dr. Joel English from Centura College;
- A panel discussion on transfer of credit issues and the "student first" approach adopted by the state of Minnesota, featuring Linda Baer from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and Jeanne Herrmann from Minnesota School of Business;



*Elise Scanlon delivers the Executive Director's report at the 2008 Annual Business Meeting.*



*Dr. Michael Offerman of Capella Education Company fields a question during the distance education panel discussion.*



*Conference participants review the PDC program seeking the ideal break-out session.*



*Kevin O'Connor presents his session on Managing Generational Differences in the Workplace.*

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*Jessica Tanaka, Manager of Institutional Review, provides an overview of the accreditation process and provides tips on preparing for an on-site evaluation.*



*Elise Scanlon and Steve Crow share a laugh during the Higher Education Act Retrospective session.*



*Dr. Howard Block delivers Tuesday's invigorating Keynote Address, "Too Many College Students"*



*It was standing room only for Dr. Michale McComis' session on Using Data for Assessment Purposes.*

- Creating Student Ambassadors led by Dr. Ronnie Kramer of Communication Dynamics;
- Generational Learning with special guest speaker, Kevin O'Connor;
- A panel discussion on the student lending crisis facilitated by Mark Pelesh of Corinthian Colleges, Inc.;
- A retrospective on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act with discussions between Ron Blumenthal of Kaplan Higher Education, Steve Crow, formerly of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, and Elise Scanlon, ACCSCT Executive Director
- A panel discussion on the role of accreditation in the state government arena, featuring Rebecca Campoverde from Kaplan Higher Education, Shawn Crawford of IIT Educational Services, and Paul De Giusti of Corinthian Colleges;
- Making Meaning of Self Evaluation with Dr. Katie Swanger of Kaplan Higher Education;
- Effective Strategies to Maximize Learning Resource Systems featuring Mark Eidam, Director of Learning Resources with YTI Career Institute; and
- ACCSCT staff-lead presentations focusing on preparing for an on-site evaluation and preparing electronic submissions for Commission consideration.

In addition to these insightful and valuable sessions, ACCSCT also uses the PDC as an opportunity to celebrate the success of its membership and volunteers. Commissioner Beth Wilson, Chair of the ACCSCT Awards Committee, led the annual Awards Ceremony where the Commission honored the 2008 Team Leader and Education Specialist of the Year, as well as the 2007-2008 Schools of Distinction, Schools of Merit, and Schools of Excellence. The Awards Ceremony also afforded the Commission with an opportunity to recognize the 2008 ACCSCT Staff Member of the Year, Kerry Lambert. Finally, Dr. Paul Bott provided an emotional salute to ACCSCT's departing Executive Director, Elise Scanlon, who after 9 years of dedicated service is leaving the Commission in December 2008.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference was a tremendous success and provided the ACCSCT membership with critical information needed to help each accredited institution to achieve their strategic goals. Through the PDC, the Commission is able to partner with our member schools to discuss ways we can collectively ensure that the students we serve have an educational experience that prepares them to enter the workforce and to make a meaningful contribution to our national economy. But more than that, the PDC provides an opportunity for ACCSCT and its members to come together as a community to learn and celebrate. According to one conference participant, "the PDC was wonderful and I left with a motivated view of the future of the career college industry."

The Commission is incredibly grateful for the involvement and active participation of our accredited member schools, who played a significant role in driving this year's program, as well as the numerous speakers for their efforts and involvement in this year's conference.

We hope to see you next year at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference!



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## ACCSCT Recognizes 2008 Institutional Award Winners

This year, ACCSCT launched a series of new institutional awards to complement the School of Distinction Award: the School of Merit and School of Excellence Awards. These awards are designed to recognize the continuous efforts made by ACCSCT-accredited institutions to achieve a high level of educational effectiveness. In order to be eligible for recognition, the institution must have received accreditation from the Commission between May 2007 and May 2008.

On October 6, 2008 at the Awards Ceremony hosted as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference, ACCSCT paid tribute to our 2008 Institutional Award Winners. Please join the Commission in recognizing the 2008 ACCSCT Schools of Distinction, Schools of Merit, and Schools of Excellence.

### School of Distinction

The ACCSCT School of Distinction Award recognizes accredited member schools that have demonstrated a commitment to the expectations of ACCSCT accreditation, as well as a commitment to delivering quality education programs to the students, graduates and employers that deserve our best work. Through this award, it is the Commission's intent to recognize the importance of this significant achievement including successfully completing the accreditation process without stipulation and having fulfilled the reporting obligations of an ACCSCT accredited institution throughout the term of their accreditation:

Academia Serrant – *Ponce, PR*  
American Career College – *Norco, CA*  
Automotive Training Center –  
*Warminster, PA*  
Cambridge Technical Institute – *Puerto  
Nuevo, PR*  
Career Training Institute – *Orlando, FL*  
Central Florida College – *Largo, FL*  
Central Florida College – *Winter Park, FL*  
Centura College – *North Charleston, SC*  
Greater Washington Institute of Massage  
– *Alexandria, VA*  
Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts  
– *Mendota Heights, MN*

Lincoln Technical Institute – *Hamden, CT*  
Platt College – *Dallas, TX*  
The Art Institute of California, Inland  
Empire – *San Bernardino, CA*  
The Art Institute of Indianapolis –  
*Indianapolis, IN*  
Universal Career Community College –  
*Humacao, PR*  
Universal Career Community College –  
*Manati, PR*  
Westwood College, Arlington Ballston –  
*Arlington, VA*  
WTI - *Tulsa, OK*  
YTI Career Institute – *Altoona, PA*

### School of Merit

In order to be eligible for the ACCSCT School of Merit Award, an institution must meet all of the criteria for the School of Distinction Award, and a majority of the institution's graduation and employment rates from all programs offered must meet or exceed the average rates of graduation and employment among all ACCSCT-accredited institutions:

Antonelli Institute – *Erdenheim, PA*  
Automotive Training Center – *Exton, PA*  
Bancroft School of Massage Therapy –  
*Worcester, MA*  
Commercial Drivers Training – *West  
Babyon, NY*  
Culinary Academy of Long Island –  
*Syosset, NY*  
ECPI Technical College – *Roanoke, VA*  
John Fish Jewelry School – *Las Vegas, NV*  
Kaplan College, Seattle Campus –  
*Renton WA*

Keiser Career College – *St. Petersburg, FL*  
Lincoln Technical Institute – *Allentown, PA*  
Make-Up Designory – *Burbank, CA*  
Oakbridge Academy of Arts – *Lower Burrell, PA*  
PCI Health Training Center – *Richardson, TX*  
Pelican Flight Training Center – *Pembroke Pines, FL*  
The Illinois Institute of Art – *Schaumburg, IL*  
Tulsa Welding Institute – *Tulsa, OK*  
Universal Career Community College –  
*San Juan, PR*  
Vatterott College – *Sunset Hills, MO*  
YTI Career Institute – *York, PA*



Representatives from the Culinary Academy of Long Island, located in Syosset, NY, celebrate their recognition as a School of Merit.



Elise Scanlon presents a School of Distinction Award to Helen Serrant and Yanira Pacheco Serrant from Academia Serrant located in Ponce, Puerto Rico.



Mary Jolliffe-Henry of ACCSCT presents a School of Merit Award to Greg Hurd of Bancroft School of Massage Therapy, located in Worcester, MA..



Representatives from PCI Health Training Center in Richardson, Texas celebrate their recognition as a School of Merit.

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## School of Excellence

In order to be eligible for the ACCSCT School of Excellence Award, an institution must meet all of the criteria for the School of Distinction Award, and ALL of the institution's graduation and employment rates from all programs offered must meet or exceed the average rates of graduation and employment among all ACCSCT-accredited institutions. The School of Excellence Award is the highest honor presented to an institution accredited by ACCSCT:

Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Arts – *Denver, CO*  
International Yacht Restoration School – *Newport, RI*  
Moler Barber College of Hair Styling – *Fargo, ND*  
Westech College – *Ontario, CA*  
Colorado School of Healing Arts – *Lakewood, CA*



*Mark Braukman of the Colorado School of Healing Arts receives a School of Excellence Award from Elise Scanlon, ACCSCT Executive Director.*

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## ACCSCT Pays Tribute to the Team Leader and Education Specialist of the Year

During the ACCSCT Awards Ceremony, the Commission recognized the 2008 Team Leader of the Year and the 2008 Education Specialist of the Year. As a learning organization, ACCSCT relies heavily on the active participation of volunteers, who play a critical role in assisting the Commission to achieve its mission and to ensure that ACCSCT accredited institutions are fulfilling their obligations to students, meeting their announced objectives, and providing an opportunity for graduates to gain entrance into a meaningful career field. The Team Leader and Education Specialist are two critical volunteer positions that participate on the on-site evaluation teams, and each year these volunteers partner with ACCSCT conducting a variety of reviews at a diverse group of institutions within our membership.

### Team Leader of the Year



*Team Leader of the Year Mollie Hager is flanked by colleagues Rick Saliba, Kayla Danyeur and Mike Pugliese.*

The Team Leader of the Year Award recognizes a volunteer from the ACCSCT membership who has made a significant contribution to career education and the ACCSCT community through his or her dedication to the accrediting process and active involvement in on-site evaluations. During the on-site evaluation, the Team Leader is responsible for assessing the managerial and administrative strengths and weaknesses of the school in the areas such as student services, student progress, admissions, and recruitment. This year, the Commission was pleased to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated her time and significant talents to the Commission, Mollie Hager.

Mollie Hager currently serves as the Director of Platt College in Moore, Oklahoma. Mollie began working with Platt College in 1997 and since that time she has worked at four campus locations within the Platt System in a variety of roles including Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Services. Mollie opened The Culinary Institute of Platt College as Campus Director in 2003 and under her leadership, the Institute earned distinguished accreditation by the American Culinary Federation. In addition, both of the campuses for which Mollie has served as Campus Director have been recognized as ACCSCT Schools of Distinction, which is a testament to her hard work and leadership. Today, Mollie continues to promote Platt College and strives to provide every opportunity for her students to gain exposure to industry by actively participating in various professional organizations and statewide community events. Her high level of dedication and knowledge of the accreditation process makes her among the first chosen by ACCSCT staff for conducting challenging on-site evaluations. She is a tremendous asset to ACCSCT, our accredited member schools, and the students we serve.

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## Education Specialist of the Year

The Education Specialist of the Year Award recognizes a key member of the ACCSCT evaluation team. During an on-site evaluation, Education Specialists spend hours talking to teachers and students, evaluating a curriculum and daily lesson plans, reading through text books and observing class room activities.

The 2008 Education Specialist of the year, Dr. Henry O'Lawrence, participated in Team Member Training in 2003 and has participated in 27 on-site evaluations since that time. Henry currently serves as the Chair of the Professional Studies Department in the College of Health and Human Services at California State University - Longbeach where he joined the

faculty in the spring of 2000. In his current position, Henry conducts qualitative and quantitative research focusing on college leadership, performance standards and measurement, evaluation, and technical education at the postsecondary level. Henry's dedication to the field of education and profound understanding of the accreditation process has been a tremendous asset to ACCSCT. His unique perspectives have assisted numerous on-site evaluation teams in their efforts to gain an understanding of a school's efforts to achieve their announced objectives, and to ensure that students are being served in the best possible manner.

Please join the Commission in congratulating Mollie Hager and Dr. Henry O'Lawrence on their dedication and service to ACCSCT.



*Beth Wilson, Chair of the Awards Committee, presents the Education Specialist of the Year Award to Dr. Henry O'Lawrence.*

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## Kerry Lambert Named ACCSCT Staff Member of the Year



*Kerry Lambert receives recognition as the Staff Member of the Year from Elise Scanlon.*

At this year's Awards Ceremony, the Commission recognized Kerry Lambert as the 2008 Staff Member of the Year. Kerry has been with the Commission since 2004 and in her role as Conference and Events Manager she has made significant improvements to the many events hosted by ACCSCT, showing a steadfast and conscientious approach to her duties. Most notably, last year Kerry oversaw the complete development of ACCSCT's Inaugural Professional Development Conference, which was heralded as a great success for the Commission and the attendees. Kerry has followed up this year in like kind and she has made several improvements to the PDC, always taking into consideration first what will best benefit the conference attendees and the Commission.

Kerry has also demonstrated her commitment to professional development, recently completing her Master's Degree in Tourism Administration from George Washington University, as well as earning the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation from the Convention Industries Council.

During the Awards Ceremony, it was noted that Kerry projects a refined style and grace which when coupled with her commitment to the values of ACCSCT serves to enhance the public face of the Commission and its member institutions.

Please join the Commission in congratulating Kerry Lambert as the 2008 Staff Member of the Year.

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## Commission Appoints Dr. Michale McComis as ACCSCT Executive Director



On October 8, 2008, after an extensive candidate search, ACCSCT announced that Dr. Michale McComis has been selected to serve as its next Executive Director.

Dr. Michale McComis has been with ACCSCT since 1994, most recently serving as the Associate Executive Director and member of the ACCSCT Leadership Team.

As the Associate Executive Director, Dr. McComis has served as the lead staff for the development of ACCSCT standards and policies, overseeing many of the Commission's external affairs activities and policy initiatives. During his tenure with ACCSCT, Dr. McComis has conducted hundreds of on-site evaluations, presented at over 75 workshops and training seminars, authored several publications, and conducted several research projects for the Commission. Dr. McComis' research specialty is in the area of measuring and evaluating student achievement outcomes and his training seminar topics cover areas such as leadership in private career colleges, the role of accreditation in institutional enhancement, and distance education and degree program development.

Dr. McComis also has extensive experience with accreditation internationally having participated in accreditation activities in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Brazil, Canada, and the Caribbean, and has on behalf of the Commission met with numerous international delegations seeking information about accreditation in the United States. Supplementing his experience in higher education accreditation, Dr. McComis is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Virginia, teaching graduate courses in education policy. Before joining ACCSCT, Dr. McComis earned experience in the trades by working as an electrician's apprentice and HVAC technician, and through his service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve as a NCO. Dr. McComis earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Degrees from the University of Virginia.

During the interview process, the Commission found that Dr. McComis clearly demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and temperament required to lead ACCSCT in changing times. As the Commission continues to maneuver through the implementation of the Higher Education Opportunity Act and the changing environment of accreditation, these characteristics will be important as a means to position ACCSCT and its member institutions meaningfully within in the higher education community. In making this appointment, the Commission is convinced that it has selected the most qualified candidate, one who will provide the leadership and direction that will keep ACCSCT on the upward trajectory that has been established by Elise Scanlon, our departing Executive Director, our staff members, our member schools, and our dedicated volunteers.

Dr. McComis will be fully engaged as the Executive Director by December 1, 2008. If you have any questions or wish to make any suggestions for our future under the leadership of Dr. McComis, please feel free to contact Michale directly at 703.247.4520 or via email at [mccomis@accsct.org](mailto:mccomis@accsct.org) or contact Dr. Paul Bott, Chairman of the Commission, at 562.708.1889, or by e-mail at [pbott@social.rr.com](mailto:pbott@social.rr.com).

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Michale McComis as the new Executive Director of ACCSCT.

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## Membership Elects Nominating Committee

According to the *Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws*, ACCSCT is required to facilitate the election of representatives from the membership to serve on the Nominating Committee during its Annual Business Meeting. The Nominating Committee is charged with assisting ACCSCT in the Commissioner selection process, and will assist the Commission as it seeks to identify qualified candidates with vast knowledge and experience in the post-secondary education sector to serve as future ACCSCT Commissioners.

The Nominating Committee is comprised of the Chairman of the Commission (Paul Bott, Ed.D., Public Commissioner), Vice-Chairman (Jack Forrest, School Commissioner, Remington Colleges), one (1) person appointed by the Chairman upon the Commission's endorsement, and two (2) school member representatives that are elected by ACCSCT membership at the Commission's Annual Business Meeting.

At this year's Annual Business Meeting, facilitated on October 6, 2008 during the Professional Development Conference in Bethesda, Maryland, the ACCSCT membership elected **John Carreon**, Vice-President of State Regulatory Affairs with Kaplan Higher Education, and **Kevin Sanderson**, President of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota to the Nominating Committee. Additionally, subsequent to the Annual Business Meeting, the Commission appointed **Dr. Gery Hochanadel**, Immediate Past Chair of the Commission, to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee aims for a diverse group of candidates with various outlooks and opinions on educational issues, which will help the Commission in achieving its mission of being a reliable authority for educational quality in the field of post-secondary career training and education. The Nominating Committee will meet in December 2008 to begin the process of soliciting candidates to replace two School Commissioner seats which will become vacant in 2009.

Please join the Commission in offering our congratulations to John Carreon, Kevin Sanderson, and Dr. Gery Hochanadel on their selection and appointment to the ACCSCT Nominating Committee.

For more information on the Nominating Committee, please contact Jonathan Bruck, Executive Relations Associate, at [jbruck@accsct.org](mailto:jbruck@accsct.org) or via phone at 703.247.4524.

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## ACCSCT Receives Recognition from THECB

On July 24, 2008, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) voted unanimously to recognize ACCSCT as an authorized accrediting agency in the state of Texas. As a result of this recognition, degree granting institutions that are accredited by ACCSCT are now able to seek approval from the Commission to offer academic associates, bachelors, and master's degree programs.

As part of the approval process, the Commission submitted a petition for recognition by the THECB which described ACCSCT's procedures governing degree authorization, and established the validity and reliability of the Commission's standards. Representatives of ACCSCT also worked with the Coordinating Board staff and appeared before a key subcommittee charged with assessing ACCSCT's compliance with the criteria for recognition under new regulations promulgated earlier this year. The Commission was afforded an opportunity to demonstrate the rigor of its accreditation standards and process to the Coordinating Board.

ACCSCT and THECB share the common goal of ensuring academic quality in accredited and licensed institutions, and the Commission appreciated the opportunity provided through the recognition process to demonstrate that its standards and processes provide for an acceptable level of quality that will serve future generations of students.

To learn more about the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, visit <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/>

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## ACCSCT Begins Commissioner Nomination Process

The Commission is inviting representatives from the ACCSCT membership to stand for election as a School Commissioner. This election cycle, ACCSCT is seeking to fill three (3) vacancies on the Commission for the following periods:

- **2 School Commissioners** for a term beginning on July 1, 2009, extending through June 30, 2013.
- **1 Public Commissioner** for a term beginning on July 1, 2009, extending through June 30, 2013.

The two School Commissioner vacancies will be filled through the membership election process, while the Public Commissioner will be appointed by the Commission after an extensive interview process.

On behalf of the Commission, the Nominating Committee invites you to send in the names of proposed nominees for School Commissioners. The Commission continually reflects upon both its balance and geographical reach, diversity of schools, and program offerings. Serving on the Commission involves a strong commitment to higher education, and is an opportunity to improve the quality of all accreditation activities and to network with an array of outstanding people in the field. The Commission is hopeful that experienced representatives from the ACCSCT community will give serious consideration to serving on the Commission.

[Click here](#) to download a Nomination Packet.

For more information, contact Jonathan Bruck, Executive Relations Associate a [jbruck@accsct.org](mailto:jbruck@accsct.org) or via phone at 703.247.4524.

**Please note that the deadline for submissions is December 8, 2008.**

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## ACCSCT Participates in Public Hearing on the Higher Education Opportunity Act

On October 8, 2008, Dr. Michale McComis, ACCSCT Associate Executive Director, participated in a public hearing facilitated by the United States Department of Education regarding the proposed regulations contained in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. At this hearing, McComis highlighted several areas for consideration by the Department as it begins the negotiated rulemaking process, including ideas on:

- Making accreditation more transparent,
- Encouraging quality in innovation,
- Supporting the mobility of our students,
- Student achievement, and
- Ensuring institutions receive due process.

[Click here](#) Click here to download Michale McComis' statement.