



# ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT 2019

## Public Version with Redactions

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# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION

## 2019 in Brief

What a year 2019 was! As you'll see in this report, MEAC has been very busy. From making major updates in our accreditation policies and procedures (*see Dear Member School Letter 26, dated November 27, 2019*) to a record number of accreditation projects under review, there has been much accreditation-related work going on. While some of it has had its share of bumps and bruises, MEAC has continued to learn from the experiences and improve our systems. To those that have been a part of these processes, thank you for all the work you've put in!

## Looking at 2020

As this report is being released, MEAC is also just days away from submitting our petition for recognition to the US Department of Education (equivalent to a Self-Evaluation Report that Member Schools submit to MEAC). That process, paired with the new federal regulations for accrediting agencies taking effect July 1, 2020 will undoubtedly mean that Member Schools can expect to see more changes to MEAC policies and procedures in the upcoming year.

There are also a few exciting happenings coming up later this year that I'm very much looking forward to sharing with you. Two in particular have been long awaited and much needed: the release of the draft standards revision for public input and the launch of MEAC's online accreditation portal. Both have the aim of making the accreditation process easier for Member Schools and easier for MEAC to conduct reviews. More information to come!

**Amari Fauna**  
Director of Accreditation  
January 21, 2020

# MEAC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

- Board President: Cassaundra Jah, CPM, MS
- Vice President of Outreach and Development, Treasurer: Kristi Ridd-Young, BS
- Vice President of Accreditation: Safiya McCarter, ND, MSAOM
- Secretary, Public Member: Aimee Eden, Ph.D
- Mariana Cerquiera Aikolani, CPM, MD
- Karen Ehrlich, CPM, LM, MA
- Gina Gerboth, MPH, RM, CPM, IBCLC
- Katie Krebs, MPH
- Maya Johnson, LM, CPM, MA
- Whitney Mesyef, BA, JD
- Abigail Reece, Ph.D, CNM, RN



# OUR ACCREDITATION STAFF

The accreditation staff are the coordinators responsible for ensuring that report cycles follow published processes and 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 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, CPM
- Justine Clegg, Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery
- Teresa Cramer, Birthwise Midwifery School
- Sharon DeJoy, Florida School of Traditional Midwifery
- Courtney Everson, Midwives College of Utah
- Heidi Filmore, Birthwise Midwifery School
- Rachel Hargy, Florida School of Traditional Midwifery
- Diane Holzer, Maternidad La Luz
- Shira Jacobs, Bastyr University
- April Kline, Midwives College of Utah
- Megan Koontz, Midwives College of Utah
- Elizabeth Kukura,
- Melissa Mayo, Birthwise Midwifery School
- Suzy Myers, Bastyr University
- Chrissy Owens,
- Nichole Reding, Birthingway College of Midwifery
- Kaylee Ridd, Midwives College of Utah
- Patricia Ross
- Connie Tucker

# 2019 ACCREDITATION ACTIVITIES

## Monitoring Reports

- Number: 7
- Focus Benchmarks: I.C1, I.C2, I.C5, II.A2, II.A3, II.B3, II.B4, II.B5, II.E1, II.E2, III.A1, III.A5, III.B2, III.B3, III.B4, III.C1, III.C3, III.D2, III.D3, III.E2, IV.B1, IV.B3, IV.B4, C1, IV.C3, IV.D2, IV.D4, IV.D6, IV.E1, V.A1, V.B1, V.B2, V.C2, V.C3, V.C4, V.C5, V.D1, VI.A1, VI.B1, VII.A3, VII.B1, VII.B2, VII.C1, VII.D3, VIII.A1, VIII.C1, IX.A1, IX.A2, IX.C1

## Compliance Reports

- Number: 5
- Focus Benchmarks: I.B1, I.C1, I.C2, III.A5, III.B1, V.A2, V.B2, V.B4, V.C3, V.C6, IX. B1

## Initial and Renewal of Accreditation Reports

- Part 1 (4)
- Part 2 Self Evaluation Reports (8)
- Part 2 Additional Information Reports (5)
- Part 4 Response to Draft ARC Reports (2)

## Substantive Changes

- Change in Legal Entity (1)
- Change in Location (1)
- Additional Location (1)
- Addition of Distance Education (2)

## Site Visits

- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Direct Entry Midwife Program (August 2019)
- Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery (August 2019)

## Other Reports

- Appeal of Adverse Action (1)
- Institution response to a Show Cause Directive (1)
- Teach-out plan (2)

## Accreditation Decisions Made

- Preaccreditation (1)
- Renewal of Accreditation (1)
- Substantive Changes (3)
- Adverse Actions (2)
- Continuation of Accreditation (3)



# 2018 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 2018 Annual Reporting Workbook and 2018 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 most recent fiscal year
- N= 8 institutions
- Range: 1.12 to 69.97
- Median: 3.23

## Key Indicator 6: Enrollment Count and Change

- Evaluates enrollment as of 12/31/2018 compared to previous year
- N= 11 institutions and programs
- Range: -26% to 8%
- Median change: -7%
  
- Total Count: 775 students enrolled as of 12/31/2018
- Range: 21-230
- Median Count: 39

## Key Indicator 7: Enrollment Change in Distance/Correspondence Ed

- Evaluates enrollment as of 12/31/2018 compared to previous year
- N= 4 institutions and programs
- Range: -6% to 8%
- Median: 1%

## Key Indicator 8: Student Retention

- Evaluates retention of cohorts enrolling in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- N= 18 programs
- Range: 55% to 100%
- Median: 85%

## Key Indicator 9: 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= 18 programs
- Range: 0% to 83%
- Median: 49%
- Total count (calendar year 2018 only): 147 students
- Range: 0-26
- Median count: 9

## Key Indicator 10: NARM Exam Pass Rate

- Evaluates years 2016, 2017 and 2018
- N= 12 programs (6 programs do not lead to NARM certification and did not count toward this measure)
- Range: 90% to 100%
- Median: 95%
- Total count (years evaluated): 341
- Range: 12-62
- Median count: 27

## Key Indicator 11: Graduate Placement<sup>1</sup>

- Evaluates years 2016, 2017 and 2018
- N= 17 programs (1 program did not have graduates to report)
- Range: [REDACTED]
- Median: [REDACTED]
- Total count (years evaluated): [REDACTED]
- Range: [REDACTED]

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<sup>1</sup> Data contained in Key Indicator 11 is for internal MEAC and MEAC Member School planning purposes only. Graduate/job placement data reliant on graduate self-reporting or from unverified sources cannot be made publicly available or used in marketing or advertising materials as per USDE Accreditation Handbook guidance on CFR 602.16 (a.1.i).

- Median count: [REDACTED]