

Council for
Higher Education
Accreditation

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January 6, 2012

Dr. T. Paul Boatner
President
Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools
15935 Forest Road
Forest, VA 24551

Dear Paul:

This is in response to your question about the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition standards and how they address all institutional accrediting organizations (national faith-related, national career-related and regional accrediting organizations).

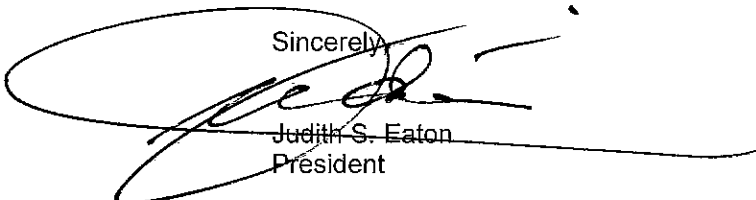
The CHEA recognition review is the same for all institutional accreditors. CHEA has a single policy for examining all organizations. The same six standards of advancing academic quality, demonstrating accountability, self-scrutiny and planning for change and needed improvement, appropriate and fair procedures in decision making, ongoing reassessment of accreditation practices and sufficient resources must be met by all institutional accrediting organizations.

With regard to state expectations and CHEA recognition, CHEA has, since our inception, urged states to require either CHEA or U.S. Department of Education (USDE) recognition. We believe that requiring *only* CHEA or *only* USDE can unfairly penalize accrediting organizations: Both CHEA and USDE have eligibility requirements that preclude some accreditors from even being considered by CHEA or USDE. These requirements are unrelated to the quality and effectiveness of the accreditor, but are related to other issues, e.g., whether the accreditation is required for federal funds or whether the accreditor reviews mainly degree-granting institutions.

I hope that this is helpful.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Judith S. Eaton
President