



## **NC-SARA Developing Inaugural Strategic Plan February 21, 2020**

The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) today announced it is actively developing an inaugural strategic plan to guide the organization's work over the next three years. The strategic plan is expected to be released in the coming months.

"With 52 member states and territories in the U.S., NC-SARA has entered a new stage of development that presents opportunities to innovate, tackle new challenges, and find new ways to provide value to our membership," said **NC-SARA President and CEO Dr. Lori Williams**. "This strategic plan project is focused on establishing a framework that will allow us to accomplish these goals while also continuing to build confidence in our organization and the reciprocity agreements across states."

NC-SARA has established a Strategic Planning Steering Committee composed of members of the executive committee of the board and NC-SARA senior staff to aide in the development of the strategic plan, which will be released in advance of the May 2020 board meeting. NC-SARA has also engaged consultants at Brainard Strategy to support the project.

To date, Brainard Strategy and NC-SARA staff have completed the environmental scan phase of the strategic planning work with SWOT and PEST analyses, as well as conducted 85 individual interviews and distributed more than 400 surveys to collect feedback that will guide the planning process.

The initial findings show great consistency from a wide variety of stakeholders, including regional compacts' presidents, steering committees, and staff; states and participating institutions; accrediting agency leaders; distance education experts; higher education organization leaders; the U.S. Department of Education; and NC-SARA board and staff.

Additional announcements regarding NC-SARA's strategic plan will be posted to NC-SARA's website in the coming months.