



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION: A MESSAGE FROM NC-SARA PRESIDENT & CEO

A letter from Lori Williams, Ph.D.

Dear Friend of NC-SARA,

I'm pleased to share with you the first annual report from the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). This report comes at a challenging time as our nation confronts a devastating pandemic, increased visibility of the structural inequities that affect higher education, and growing civil unrest -- formidable issues that are helping shape the evolution of our organization and inspire new avenues for engagement and action.

2020 served as a turning point for many, forcing us to rethink our priorities, our values, and our impact. This is especially true for those in the nation's postsecondary system. Millions of students and faculty migrated to emergency remote learning, sparking renewed debate around equity, access, and inclusion in higher education. The economic downturn created new budgetary hurdles for states and institutions, as well as families nationwide. As a national leader in advancing interstate access to quality postsecondary distance education programs, NC-SARA plays a valuable role in addressing these issues.

From helping institutions reduce cost and bureaucracy, to engaging and supporting the essential work of states in assuring quality, to amplifying our role in essential consumer protections for students, we have used the last year to sharpen our focus on building a stronger and better infrastructure for distance education.

This past year, we have worked diligently to bolster our network of partners, finding new opportunities for collaboration and problem-solving. We've also increased our efforts to collect and share more

meaningful data that can inform broader and deeper conversations around distance education, particularly with our member states. Additionally, we have identified new avenues for thought leadership and engagement, publishing articles about quality distance education, presenting at conferences about the value of SARA, and sponsoring reports on the Digital Divide and a series on the Black Experience in Higher Education.

After years of prioritizing outreach and building a strong network of state members and institution participants nationwide, we have now moved to the next phase of our organization's work. The new pathways forged in 2020 are leading us to the future, to NC-SARA 2.0, a forward-thinking partner in distance education committed to access, affordability, and quality for all.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not add that this work would not be possible without the dedication and determination of the NC-SARA staff, our diligent regional compact partners, our member states and participating institutions, and our supportive board. In a year rife with trials and tribulations, we persevered together (albeit virtually!), and I am immensely grateful for your hard work and commitment to our mission.

I hope you enjoy learning more about our progress and priorities through this annual report, and I look forward to continuing to learn and grow together.

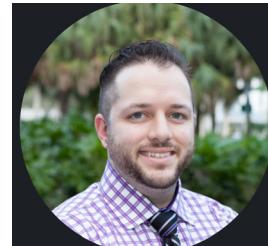


MEET THE TEAM

NC-SARA is grateful to work with a team of passionate and committed experts who are dedicated to our mission of assuring quality in postsecondary distance education.

Despite myriad personal and professional challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, our team didn't miss a beat, advancing new and innovative initiatives, strengthening our capacity to offer excellent data and research insights, and continuing to build and foster relationships with collaborative partners. Through it all, the hard work undertaken by the NC-SARA staff continues to shine.

[Learn more about the NC-SARA staff](#)



RAY AUDETT

Assistant Director for
Information Technology



MARIANNE BOEKE, PH.D.

Senior Director for Research and
State Support



MELANIE BOOTH, ED.D.

Senior Director of Educational
Programs and Communications



LAUREN BRUNELL

Executive Assistant



RACHEL CHRISTESON, PH.D.

Associate Director for Research
and Data Analysis



MARY AGNES LARSON, M.ED.

Executive Director for Student
and Institution Support



HOLLY MARTINEZ

Accounting Technician and
Customer Support Specialist



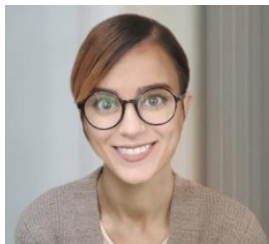
NICK ORTIZ

Application Programmer/Analyst



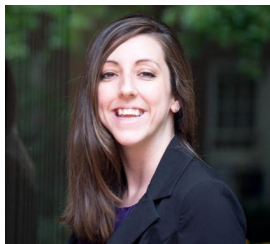
YOVANI PINA

Director of Information
Technology



JESSICA PRIHODA

Administrative Assistant



ASHLEY RASMUSSEN

Director of Finance



SHANNON WALKER

Associate Director for Business
Operations/HR



LORI WILLIAMS, PH.D.

President and Chief Executive
Officer



JEANNIE YOCKEY-FINE

General Counsel

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Learn about the essential
leaders that make SARA work



NC-SARA is governed by a Board of Directors composed of experts in higher education, state leadership, advocacy, and distance education.

The Board of Directors is focused on supporting our work to improve students' access to quality postsecondary distance education opportunities. We are enormously appreciative that these talented professionals continue to offer their time, engagement, and experience to help guide our work.

NC-SARA BOARD MEMBERS

Rob Anderson

President, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)

Barbara Ballard

State Representative, Kansas Legislature

Chris Bustamante

Executive Director, Arizona Community College Coordinating Council

John Cavanaugh

Former President & CEO, Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area

Art Coleman

Managing Partner and Co-Founder, EducationCounsel, LLC

Laurie Dodge

Vice Chancellor of Institutional Assessment and Planning, Brandman University

Lanna Dueck

Executive Director, Arizona SARA Council

Susan G. Heegaard

President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)

Angela Lee

Executive Director, District of Columbia Higher Education Licensure Commission

Teresa Lubbers, Chair

Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Leah Matthews

Executive Director, Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)

Demarée Michelau

President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Carlos Morales

President, Tarrant County Colleges Connect Campus

Patricia O'Brien

Senior Vice President, New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)

BOARD LEADERSHIP (cont'd)

Learn about the essential
leaders that make SARA work

Stephen Pruitt

President, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

Pamela Quinn

CEO/Provost, LeCroy Center and Dallas Colleges Online, Dallas College (retired)

Edward Ray, Vice Chair

President Emeritus and Professor of Economics, Oregon State University

George Eugene Ross

President Emeritus, Central Michigan University

Paul Shiffman

Chief Executive Officer, Presidents' Forum at Excelsior College (retired)

Peter Smith

Orkand Chair and Professor of Innovative Practices in Higher Education, University of Maryland Global Campus

Michael Thomas

President and CEO, New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)

Larry Tremblay

Deputy Commissioner, Planning, Research and Academic Affairs, Louisiana Board of Regents (retired)

Leroy Wade, Treasurer

Deputy Commissioner, Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

Belle Wheelan

President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)



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I'd like to share my personal gratitude to each of the past and present NC-SARA board members for their dedication to the mission of our complex organization, as well as their expertise, support, and critical decision-making on behalf of quality interstate distance education for students.

 **Lori Williams, Ph.D.**

REGIONAL COMPACT PARTNERS

Learn about the essential leaders
and partners that make SARA work



NC-SARA works collaboratively with leadership from each of the four regional education compacts in support of our shared goal to expand quality distance education options across state lines.

Each compact has created internal SARA director and coordinator positions to lead the shared work of SARA implementation and provide on-the-ground support to the states and institutions in their respective regions. Meet the compact leadership and SARA teams:

Midwestern Higher Education Compact

President: Susan Heegaard, J.D.

Regional SARA Director: Emily Jacobson, Associate Director of M-SARA

Regional SARA Coordinator: Leah Reinert, Policy and Research Manager

New England Board of Higher Education

President: Michael K. Thomas, Ph.D.

Regional SARA Director: Rachael Stachowiak, Associate Director

Regional SARA Coordinator: Sheridan Miller,
State Policy Engagement Coordinator

LEGEND

MHEC NEBHE SREB WICHE
NON MEMBER

Southern Regional Education Board

President: Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.

Regional SARA Director: Wanda Barker, Division Director, Education
Technology and Multistate Cooperative Programs

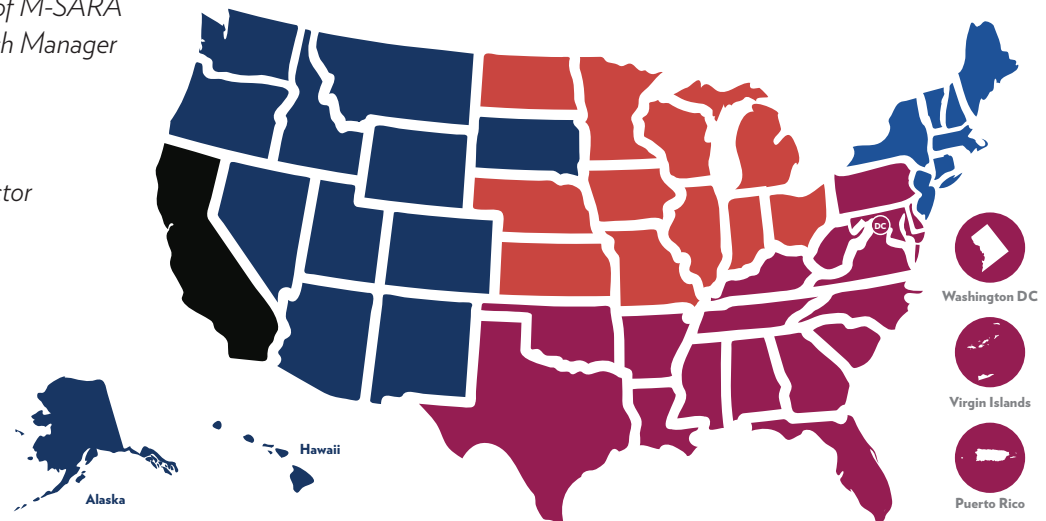
Regional SARA Coordinator: Elisa Jaden, Program Coordinator, Education
Technology and Multistate Cooperative Programs

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

President: Demarée Michelau, Ph.D.

Regional SARA Director: Christina Sedney, Director of Policy Initiatives and
State Authorization, Policy Analysis and Research

Regional SARA Coordinator: Shelley Plutto, Project Coordinator, W-SARA



OUR EVOLUTION AND PURPOSE

The NC-SARA mission and history

NC-SARA is a nonprofit organization that helps expand students' access to postsecondary educational opportunities and ensure more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs.

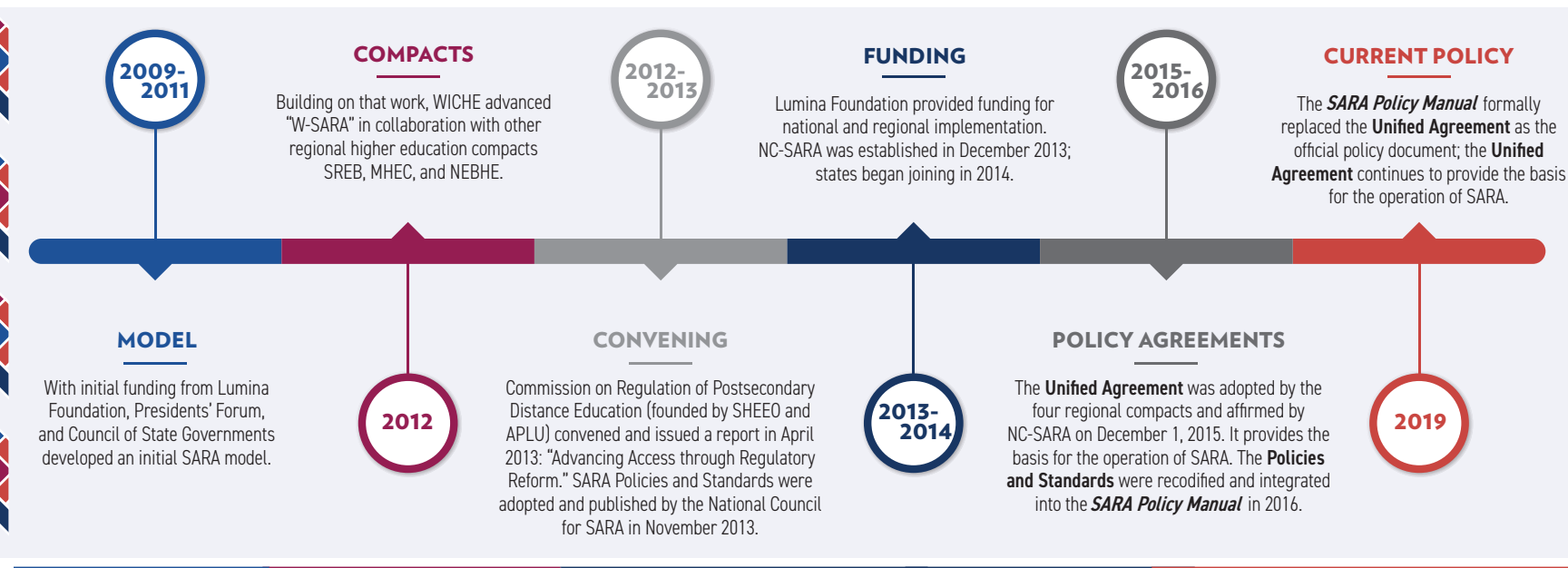
OUR MISSION

- To provide broad access to postsecondary education opportunities to students across the country;
- To increase the quality and value of higher learning credentials earned via distance education; and
- To assure students are well served in a rapidly changing education landscape.

HISTORY & EVOLUTION

NC-SARA was founded in 2013 when higher education stakeholders – including state regulators and education leaders, accreditors, the U.S. Department of Education, and institutions – recognized the growing demand for distance learning opportunities and joined together to establish the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), which streamlined regulations for distance education programs.

Now, in collaboration with the four regional higher education compacts and a broad array of stakeholders, NC-SARA serves as a national leader by ensuring alignment on core elements and requirements of SARA, supporting quality assurance and consumer protections for students, and increasing the value of credits earned through distance learning programs.



NC-SARA BY THE NUMBERS

Our reach, impact, and scale

8

Eight years ago in 2013, education **stakeholders came together** to form NC-SARA.

2,200+

As of May 2021, 2,276 **institutions participate in SARA**, including 184 institutions that joined SARA just in the last year.

100%

All participating institutions **choose to voluntarily participate in SARA**.

2,900+

Recognizing the exacerbated effect the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought on the already challenging issue of the digital divide in higher education, NC-SARA sponsored *Inside Higher Ed's* special report “**Bridging the Digital Divide: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic**,” which has been downloaded more than 2,900 times since its February 2, 2021 publication.

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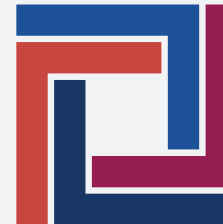
NC-SARA **collaborates with 4 regional compacts** to advance our mission of expanding students' access to educational opportunities and ensuring more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs.

75+

In 2020, we hosted more than 75 **webinars, convenings, trainings, and meetings** with various stakeholders. NC-SARA works diligently to build relationships with partners and collaborators who share our commitment to expanding quality distance education

52

Every state except California is a **member of SARA**, along with three territories: the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



55%

Today, more than 55% of **eligible U.S. postsecondary institutions** that offer distance education participate in SARA.

3 million

More than three million **students were enrolled exclusively in distance education programs** at SARA-participating institutions in Fall 2019.

\$402 million

SARA has helped **participating postsecondary institutions** save a total of \$402 million for initial authorization and approximately \$133 million annually on renewals.

NC-SARA STRATEGIC PLAN

See our vision for the future
and progress to date

In 2019, NC-SARA launched an intensive strategic planning process that involved a detailed environmental scan, individual interviews, and surveys to engage key stakeholders and identify opportunities for organizational improvements and service enhancements for our member states, participating institutions, and students.

The NC-SARA Strategic Plan is centered around four objectives, each with 2-3 associated goals and appropriate key performance indicators, that aim to help our organization expand its influence and reach, strengthen relationships, and deliver excellence and value to all our stakeholders:

1. Develop and communicate a clear, compelling message to constituents regarding the value proposition of NC-SARA;
2. Employ NC-SARA's broad collaborative relationships with accreditors, states, and institutions to promote improvements in access to and quality of distance education programs;
3. Achieve operational excellence; and
4. Continuously strengthen the partnership with regional compacts and states to seamlessly align and deliver value.



“

This strategic plan aims to bring NC-SARA to the forefront as a national leader in postsecondary distance education, **a known and respected partner and advocate for continuous improvement and expanded access so all students**, regardless of background and circumstance, can find a valuable learning experience that fits their needs.

 **Lori Williams, Ph.D.**

NC-SARA STRATEGIC PLAN (cont'd)

PROGRESS TO DATE: 2020 – 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As we conclude the first year of operationalizing the NC-SARA Strategic Plan, we are pleased to report strong progress and several key achievements that have helped advanced the goals outlined in the plan. These efforts include, but are not limited to:



Communications: Launched a revamped website, brand identity, suite of messaging materials and reports, and media engagement efforts designed to more effectively communicate the NC-SARA value proposition and raise awareness of leading priorities (e.g., student consumer protections, access and equality in education, value and return on investment for SARA-participating institutions, and higher education affordability).



Engagement: Identified several avenues to enhance outreach to and collaboration with current and prospective partners, such as:

- Hosting conversations about NC-SARA's student consumer protections efforts with consumer advocate groups;
- Engaging NCHEMS to research and develop an updated set of 21st Century Guidelines for Distance Education for accreditors, with support and insight from accreditors; and
- Launching a working group on branch campus policy recommendations comprising SARA State Portal Entities, board members, and institution representatives.



Operational Excellence: Implemented enhanced staff training and educational opportunities; recruited new talent to fill key roles in finance, research, educational programs, and communications; aligned leadership performance reviews with strategic objectives; and identified opportunities to improve the review and revision of the *SARA Policy Manual* process in collaboration with regional compacts and SPEs.



Partnerships: Took action to clarify roles and responsibilities between NC-SARA and regional compacts; initiated quarterly meetings with compact presidents; facilitated new opportunities for compact directors to engage in the development of NC-SARA initiatives and priorities; and instituted a new, collaborative process for regularly seeking input on policy development from compact staff, states, and institutions.



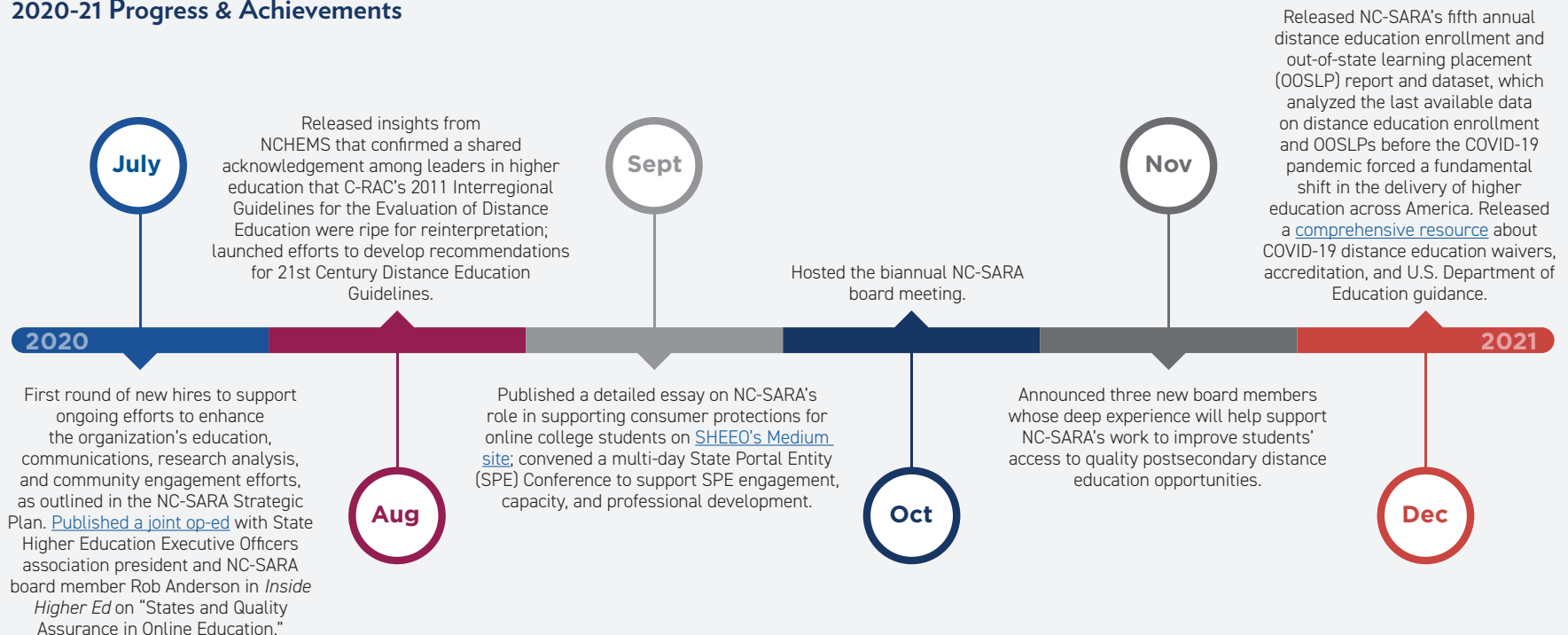
For more information about the NC-SARA Strategic Plan, visit <http://bit.ly/ncsarastrategicplan>. We look forward to continuing to provide periodic updates on our progress and successes in implementing this comprehensive plan.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

A look at NC-SARA's leading initiatives and projects

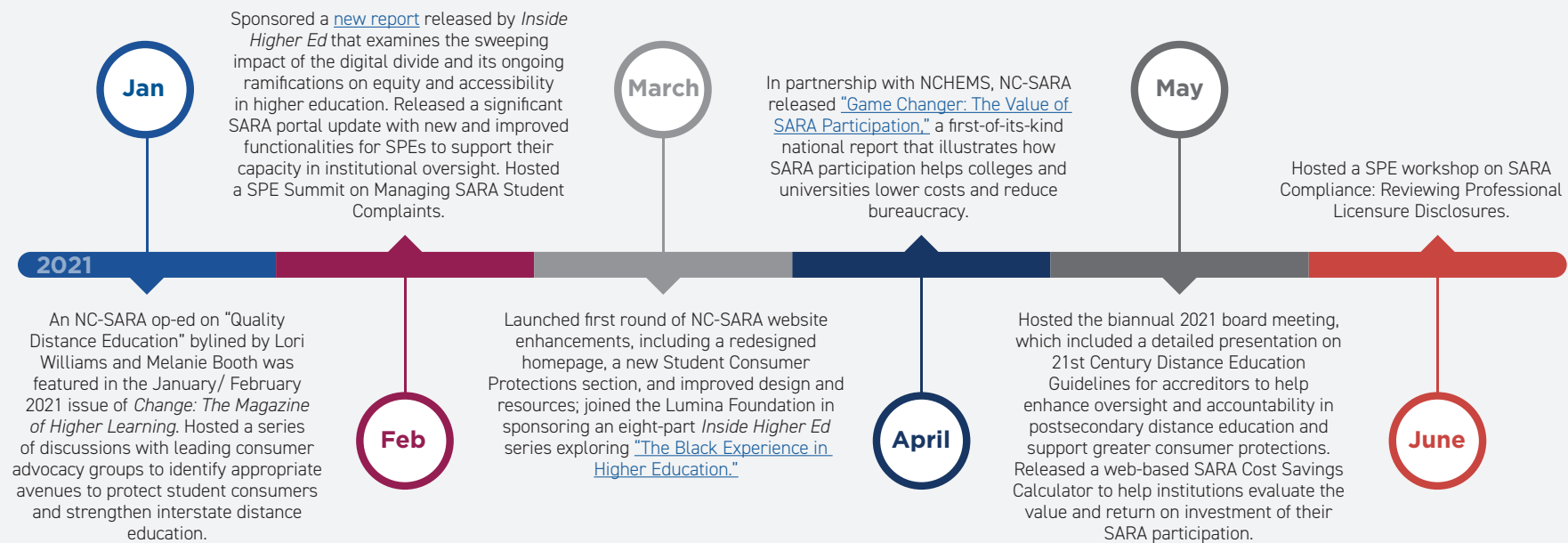
The NC-SARA staff, in collaboration with key partners and supporters, advanced several priority initiatives designed to raise awareness of the value of SARA and identify avenues to enhance interstate distance education nationwide.

2020-21 Progress & Achievements





2020-21 Progress & Achievements (cont'd)



SPOTLIGHT: Student Consumer Protections

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a massive increase in postsecondary distance education and remote learning experiences. This presented an important opportunity to review critical consumer protections embedded in our nation's distance education system to better understand how states and accreditors assure quality – and the role NC-SARA plays in supporting essential protections for interstate college students.

NC-SARA operates as a collaborative partner to the triad of organizations, including states, the federal government, and accreditors. While our organization was established to help expand students' access to educational opportunities and ensure more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs, quality assurance and oversight remains a central area of focus in our work.

Two critical components of our mission are (1) to assure students are well-served in a rapidly changing education landscape, and (2) to increase the quality and value of higher education credentials earned through distance education programs. To do so, SARA participating institutions and member states must meet certain requirements – many of which are focused on ensuring appropriate consumer protections for students.

It is important to recognize that because nearly all U.S. states, territories, and districts are SARA members, and more than half of the colleges and universities in the country participate in the agreements, overall consumer protections for distance education students have

Read about NC-SARA's work to support quality and advance essential protections for distance education students

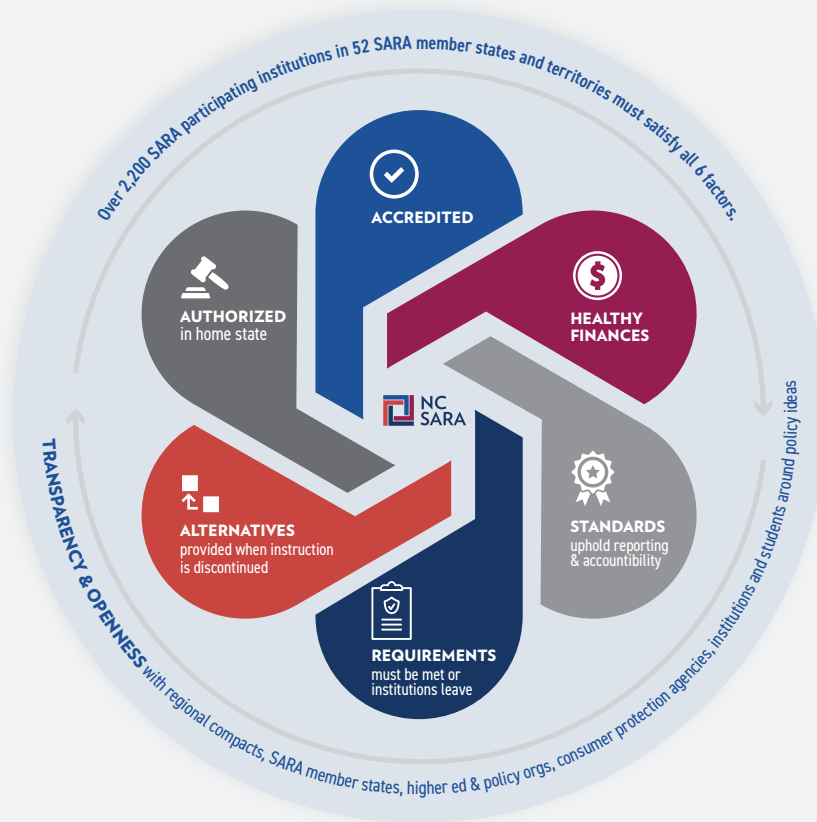
been improved. For non-SARA participating institutions, roughly one-third of the states do not require accreditation, and half do not regulate distance education. However, SARA participation ensures that institutions not otherwise held to these standards are required to meet basic consumer protections.

Particularly at a time when the volume of students engaged in remote learning may have reached an all-time high, understanding the existing consumer protections – and the role various stakeholders must play in upholding those protections – is imperative to ensure distance education initiatives effectively serve students, our communities, and the public.

Since its inception, NC-SARA is, at its core, a national entity designed to serve students by ensuring access to quality distance education opportunities across state lines. As the postsecondary distance education landscape continues to evolve, NC-SARA will seek opportunities to strengthen our capacity to serve as a leader in advocating for enhanced consumer protection for students.

More information about NC-SARA's work to support student consumer protections is available at <https://nc-sara.org/student-consumer-protections-page>.

NC-SARA IMPROVES STUDENT CONSUMER PROTECTIONS



Variable state regulation results in about half without any distance education regulation and one-third without accreditation requirements. When states join SARA, they agree to follow uniform processes for approving their eligible institutions' participation. SARA's policies help protect students and provide benefits to both states and institutions carrying out distance education in multiple states.

Accredited

All SARA institutions must be accredited. Accreditation provides an important layer of accountability and quality assurance.

Healthy Finances

States accept an institutional federal Financial Responsibility Composite Score of 1.5 as indicative of sufficient minimum financial stability.

Standards

To participate in SARA, colleges and universities must adhere to high standards and abide by the policies in the *SARA Policy Manual*.

Requirements

SARA member states are expected, per NC-SARA policy, to investigate a variety of consumer protection issues, including truthfulness in advertising and accuracy of data related to course offerings, job placements, tuition, fees, and financial aid, among other items.

Alternatives

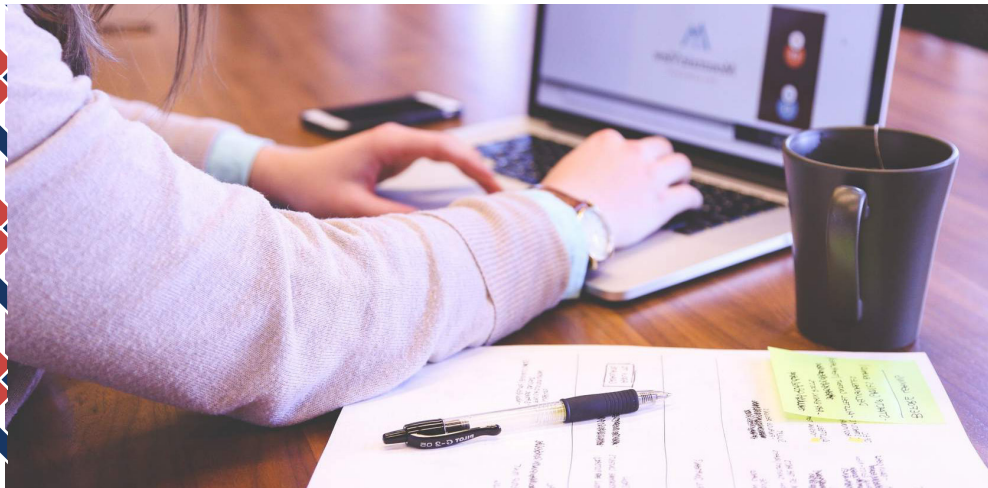
If a SARA institution decides to close a distance learning program, the institution must either provide a reasonable alternative or offer financial compensation.

Authorized

SARA institutions must be chartered or licensed by, and physically located in, a U.S. state or territory. This ensures that genuine evaluation and oversight by a U.S. entity can take place.

SPOTLIGHT: Stakeholder Engagement

The United States is fortunate to have one of the best postsecondary education systems in the world, and that's due in no small part to the plethora of individuals and organizations who work tirelessly to support a dynamic and innovative learning landscape that can help students from all backgrounds access the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the workforce and in life.



From accreditors to state regulators, SARA State Portal Entities to regional compacts, NC-SARA regularly engages with a wide array of stakeholders who are all committed to supporting postsecondary distance education. However, we know there's so much more we can do to solidify our role as a leader in this space; to do so requires NC-SARA to continually build and expand our relationships to bring

Our commitment to collaborating with and seeking feedback from diverse partners

in new perspectives, ideas, and initiatives that will support our shared goal of opening the doors to quality learning opportunities for more students.

This is an important driver behind one of the objectives in NC-SARA's Strategic Plan: to employ broad collaborative relationships with accreditors, states, and institutions that help promote improvements in access to, and quality of, distance education programs.

In addition to our partnership with regional compacts (WICHE, NEBHE, SREB, and MHEC), NC-SARA actively collaborates with a wide variety of organizations to improve and expand services; to convey the value of NC-SARA for students, institutions, and states; and to advance the larger field of quality distance education in postsecondary education.

Our efforts in this arena over the last year included generating collaborative research proposals, leading the development of new quality guidelines, engaging with consumer protection advocacy organizations, and broadly supporting and elevating other organizations' work in the field. Expanding our outreach and engagement efforts will remain a leading priority in the years ahead as we seek to meaningfully collaborate with a variety of partners across the higher education spectrum.

NC-SARA Stakeholder Groups

STATES

NC-SARA regularly works with state regulators and policymakers responsible for overseeing distance education in postsecondary institutions. Enhancing these efforts in 2021 and beyond remains a top priority.

REGIONAL COMPACTS

As always, our work with the regional compacts is essential. MHEC, SREB, NEBHE, and WICHE are important partners in administering SARA in their regions and expanding distance education opportunities across state lines.

HIGHER EDUCATION AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

NC-SARA has an active partnership with many higher education agencies and organizations, including:

- Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- Council of State Governments
- Credential Engine
- Emsi
- National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools
- National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
- Presidents' Forum
- State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
- And others

DISTANCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

NC-SARA participates in and provides direct sponsorship and support to multiple member organizations' conferences and convenings, including:

- American Council on Education
- Competency-Based Education Network
- Council of College and Military Educators
- Online Learning Consortium
- Quality Matters
- United States Distance Learning Association
- University Professional and Continuing Education Association
- WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies / State Authorization Network

STUDENT CONSUMER PROTECTION GROUPS

NC-SARA has held numerous meetings with various student consumer protection advocacy organizations as well as members of the National Association of Attorneys General. We are hopeful that our shared commitments to student consumer protections will provide a strong foundation for future collaboration.

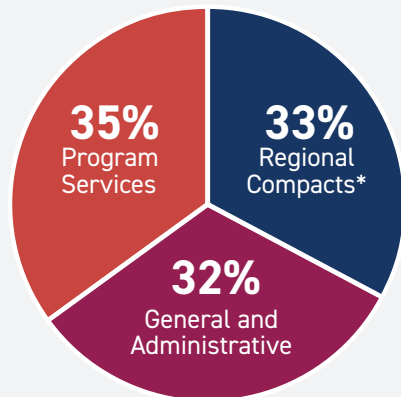
ACCREDITORS

NC-SARA recognizes and supports the value that accreditors provide to the public regarding distance education quality assurance and consumer protection. We rely on the accreditors to support quality assurance, and we regularly identify avenues to seek their partnership and guidance on leading initiatives, including the development of new 21st Century Distance Education Guidelines.

NC-SARA FINANCIALS

Our work is made possible by annual fees (\$2,000-\$6,000 each annually depending upon enrollment) paid by institutions that wish to voluntarily participate in SARA. Since the founding of NC-SARA in 2013, our institution fees have never increased and we have never charged fees to states to be members.

NC-SARA EXPENSES



**Includes funds toward compact reserves.*

In the fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, NC-SARA's total income was \$6.9 million. A high-level overview of how these funds have been used to support the work of SARA and our dedicated partners is provided below.

REGIONAL COMPACTS

- Supports the on-the-ground efforts of the four regional compacts as they administer SARA in their regions and engage with member states and participating institutions. Funding also provides compacts with resources to support SARA-dedicated staff.

PROGRAM SERVICES AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Funds NC-SARA engagement with higher education and distance learning stakeholders through conferences and webinars.
- Supports educational programming and training for SARA State Portal Entities and SARA institutions.
- Supports research, data collection, and reporting efforts.
- Funds resource development, such as the State Authorization Guide and Professional Licensure Directory.
- Funds communications activities and general administration of NC-SARA.

LOOKING FORWARD

See an overview of upcoming events and priority projects



As we build the next phase of our work and implement our strategic plan, NC-SARA is advancing several initiatives that will help solidify our position as a leading voice in quality distance education, offering meaningful data and programming that can help shape the future of postsecondary distance education.

These priority initiatives include:

STRENGTHENING STUDENT CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

NC-SARA member states provide student protections against false or misleading information by SARA-participating institutions through investigation and resolution of allegations of dishonest or fraudulent activity. NC-SARA maintains a publicly available online database of such SARA-related student complaints. Strengthening consumer protections in postsecondary distance education will remain a leading priority for NC-SARA as we seek additional avenues to advocate for quality and accountability in distance education programming.

IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY THROUGH ANNUAL DATA REPORT

NC-SARA releases an annual distance education enrollment and out-of-state learning placements report and dataset analyzing the latest available data from SARA-participating institutions. This information provides key insights to guide our own work — as well as the work of states, policymakers, and institutions — into distance education enrollment trends within states and across state lines.

REPORTING ON RETURN ON INVESTMENT

NC-SARA recently commissioned a robust study from NCHEMS to better understand the SARA value proposition. In 2021, we released “[Game Changer: The Value of SARA Participation](#),” a report that confirms SARA participation results in significant savings for institutions while also reducing bureaucracy and enhancing compliance. We will continue to compile data on cost savings and other benefits of SARA to further illustrate its value.

ENHANCING RESEARCH & DATA CAPACITY

NC-SARA is actively working to increase our capacity to offer better, more inclusive data that can inform the conversation around distance education. We will continue to seek new partnerships with organizations that are similarly interested in better understanding the landscape of distance education as we work to provide more well-rounded insights that can have broad benefit to higher education stakeholders.

SIMPLIFYING ACCESS TO DISTANCE EDUCATION INFORMATION

NC-SARA is in the process of developing a searchable online catalog — *the SARA Source* — of verified distance education course and program information from SARA institutions nationwide in an effort to make it easier for current and prospective students to find the program that best fits their needs and career goals.

LOOKING FORWARD (cont'd)

EXPLORING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INSIGHTS

Recognizing that distance education plays an essential role in expanding credentials and skills among adult workers, NC-SARA is exploring avenues to collaborate with other stakeholders to use the data SARA collects from its participating institutions to inform decision making about the attainment of workforce development goals at the state and regional levels.

RESEARCHING STATE AUTHORIZATION CAPACITY

Forty-four of the 52 state offices that serve as State Portal Entities also serve as state regulators, responsible for granting home state authorization to institutions and reviewing those institutions for participation in SARA. The capacity of these individuals to perform this work depends upon the amount of funding provided to them, the volume of staff support, and the number institutions that seek SARA participation annually. Given the variables involved, and the fact that each state allocates resources differently, NC-SARA is interested in conducting research on state authorization capacity to help ensure quality distance education and inform decision making.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

We look forward to continuing to produce quality educational programming to inform and engage states, institutions, higher education advocates, and other interested stakeholders. Here are a few upcoming programs to add to your calendar in 2021/2022:

- **July 20, 2021:** NC-SARA Institution Conference
- **September 1-2, 2021:** State Portal Entity Conference
- **Fall 2021:** Online institution and State Portal Entity training modules: beginning in Fall 2021



SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 20, 2021

IN THE FIELD:

NC-SARA'S INSTITUTION CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, July 20, 2021** and register today to secure your spot at NC-SARA's first conference for SARA participating institutions!

With the theme "In the Field", this virtual conference aims to connect with and engage our partners on the ground who are working day-in and day-out to support interstate distance education, state authorization reciprocity compliance, academic planning, and institutional research for distance education.

We're excited to share that the conference will feature a keynote address from Peter Smith, Ed. D., Orkand Chair and Professor of Innovative Practices in Higher Education at the University of Maryland Global Campus. Dr. Smith is a former U.S. Congressman from Vermont, founder of the Vermont community college system, UNESCO leader, founding president of Cal State Monterey Bay, and well known author of several higher education volumes.

Visit nc-sara.org/in-the-field-2021 for more details on the agenda and speakers as they are announced.

IN THE FIELD: NC-SARA'S INSTITUTION CONFERENCE

July 20, 2021

