



Scribe Template - OLC Collaborate-Kansas City

General Session Topic	Innovation and Regulation	Date:	Feb. 24, 2015
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Key Ideas and Takeaways:

The U.S. educational attainment for 18-34 year olds ranks 13 in world. This is a problem for international and global companies. (They may have to hire non-US citizens.)

Distance ed is part of a solution and it must be done well--effectively and efficiently.

In US higher education is generally regulated by the states (rather than by one overarching organization--even DOE). (1) State interest that education delivered to citizens is quality and (2) protects higher education "turf." (#2 is slowly becoming less important.)

Each state into which education is delivered must be negotiated with by institutions. This has created a very heavy workload for both states and institutions.

SARA establishes a state-level reciprocity (by regions?) to help standardize the process. Compromise and negotiation are hallmarks. Institutions want as little oversight and regulation as possible; regulators are focused on identifying and surfacing worthless courses and degrees and holding institutions accountable; accreditors help establish the accountability via standards..

CSG (Council of State Governments) and SARA crosses lines via four regional compacts. It is a very broad-based organization in terms of advisory and member groups. Three states (PA, NY, NJ and DC) are not affiliated. Thus, institutions in these areas cannot participate unless they affiliate in some way--affiliation is underway. Affiliation is voluntary--it is not a national mandate.

Each regional is recognized and reciprocity within them allows institutions to cross state lines. Recognized by DOE.

Degree-granting institutions of all kinds may join. (Including nationally-accredited institutions.)

Should provide students with better access and quicker problem resolution. Also benefits states in that it enables provision of distance education to citizens within a state in a cost-effective manner while assuring some consistent and standardized oversight.

Currently 19 SARA states. Ohio and Arkansas have submitted applications. Some states have decided they don't need additional legislation to participate. Estimates that by end of 2015 35+ states will be a part of SARA.

Currently 200 institutions--this lags behind the state participation, as the state must approve institutional participation.

What Else is Important to Capture Here?:

Questions for Follow Up in Breakout Sessions:

1. SARA is designed to enhance student access--does it address adjunct/contract faculty agreements?
2. How do institutions find information relative to their state?
3. Is a 100% online institution subject to their state of domicile or each state in which they operate?

Next Steps: