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***2015: A MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR
ACCREDITATION – IF TALK
BECOMES ACTION***

***COMMISSION ON
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES***

***Judith S. Eaton, President
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
11 December 2015***

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THE YEAR THAT WAS: 2015

***WHERE DOES THIS LEAD
US?***

WHAT ABOUT 2016?

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***THE YEAR THAT WAS:
2015***

JANUARY: NO REAUTHORIZATION BILL

JANUARY: RATINGS ARE COMING, RATINGS ARE COMING

MARCH: ALEXANDER WHITE PAPER – COMPILATION, RISK-ADJUSTED, NEW PATHWAYS FOR TITLE IV, NEW ACCREDITORS, “NON-GEOGRAPHIC” ACCREDITATION, “SKIN IN THE GAME”

JUNE: WALL STREET JOURNAL – “THE WATCHDOGS OF COLLEGE EDUCATION RARELY BITE,” INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

JULY: NACIQI REPORT-COMMON DEFINITIONS, DIFFERENTIATED REVIEW, REPORTS PUBLIC, ALTERNATIVE PATH TO TITLE IV, “INSTITUTIONAL CHOICE”

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***SEPTEMBER: RUBIO-BENNET – “INNOVATION
AUTHORIZERS” - FEDERAL ALTERNATIVES TO
ACCREDITATION FOR NEW PROVIDERS, OUTCOMES
BUT NOT LEVELS, PERFORMANCE-BASED ACCESS
TO FEDERAL AID***

***SEPTEMBER: THE RATINGS AREN'T COMING,
THE RATINGS AREN'T COMING***

***SEPTEMBER: COLLEGE SCORECARD –
GRADUATION, MEDIAN SALARY, LOAN REPAYMENT;
NOT RATINGS, BUT: NPR, CHRONICLE – MULTIPLE
RANKING LISTS***

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***OCTOBER: WALL STREET JOURNAL –
“TRUST-BUSTING IN HIGHER EDUCATION”
EDITORIAL - “CARTEL,” “OBSCURE NETWORK OF
HIGHER EDUCATION BUSYBODIES”***

***OCTOBER: EQUIP AND QAES – PARTNERSHIP
INSTITUTIONS, INNOVATIVE PROVIDERS, FEDERAL
QUALITY ASSURANCE ENTITIES - PATH TO TITLE IV,
OUTCOMES-BASED, MONITORING, EARLY WARNING***

...NEW, FEDERAL ACCREDITATION...

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***NOVEMBER: TRANSPARENCY AGENDA -
PUBLISHED ACCREDITOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
STANDARDS, STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PRACTICE,
GRAD/DEFAULT BY ACCREDITOR; MEMO – DATA
COORDINATION AND FLEXIBILITY***

***NOVEMBER: TRANSPARENCY AGENDA –
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS – END RULE OF
CONSTRUCTION, TEACH-OUT, STANDARDIZED AND
COMMON DEFINITIONS AND DATA REPORTING, ALL
FINAL ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTS PUBLIC***

***FORCING THE OUTCOMES ISSUE...FORCING
THE TRANSPARENCY ISSUE...***

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DECEMBER: NACIQI AND OUTCOMES

DECEMBER: NO REAUTHORIZATION BILL

DECEMBER.....

SO...

CONGRESS, HOUSE, SENATE , USDE –

- **ALL THINK THAT THEY KNOW BEST WHEN IT COMES TO ACCREDITATION**
- **ALL ARE BENT ON CHANGING ACCREDITATION**

THIS IS 2015 – WITH JUST A FEW WEEKS LEFT TO GO

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OH....

**CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BOARD
INVESTIGATING AN ACCREDITOR**

**SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATING ROLE OF ACCREDITATION IN
QUALITY AND FINANCIAL HEALTH OF
COLLEGES**

GAO WORK GOES ON – USDE OVERSIGHT

**DEBT-FREE AND TUITION FREE: FEDERAL
AND STATE - IMPACT ON ACCREDITATION**

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***WHERE DOES
THIS LEAVE US?***

IT LEAVES US WITH...

CALLS FOR CHANGE

NEW IDEAS

MISMATCH

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PERSISTENT AND POWERFUL CALLS FOR CHANGE

***IT'S ABOUT PERFORMANCE-BASED ACCREDITATION
– OUTCOMES***

***IT'S ABOUT ACCREDITATION'S ACCOUNTABILITY TO
SOCIETY, NOT ONLY HIGHER EDUCATION***

***IT'S ABOUT INNOVATION IN ACCREDITATION AS WELL
AS HIGHER EDUCATION***

IT'S ABOUT CHANGES IN THE GATEKEEPING ROLE

LOTS OF NEW IDEAS OUT THERE

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STREAMLINE TRADITIONAL ACCREDITATION: RISK-BASED, DIFFERENTIATED RESULTS

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCREDITATION: “SKIN IN THE GAME”

“INSTITUTIONAL CHOICE,” NON-GEOGRAPHIC ACCREDITATION, COMPARABILITY: GRADUATION RATES, “INNOVATION AUTHORIZERS,” “QUALITY ASSURANCE ENTITIES,” “THIRD-PARTY ORGANIZATIONS”

MULTIPLE PATHS OF GATEKEEPING: DATA-DRIVEN, TRADITIONAL ACCREDITATION, NEW ACCREDITATION

***...WE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT ANY OF THIS
EVEN 3-5 YEARS AGO...***

WE HAVE A MISMATCH

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<i>Issue</i>	<i>Accreditation</i>	<i>Expectations</i>
<i>Sources of Evidence</i>	<i>We rely on self-reporting and peer review for evidence</i>	<i>The expectation is for external review to provide evidence</i>
<i>What Counts as Evidence</i>	<i>We rely on information in response to aspirational standards about capacity and process in key academic areas – curriculum, faculty, standards – with attention to results, but nuanced</i>	<i>The expectation is for bright-line, specific indicators and perhaps a floor – all focused on performance and what happens to students</i>
<i>Process</i>	<i>We rely on formative evaluation with the primary goal of quality improvement</i>	<i>The expectation is for summative evaluation with the primary goal of assuring minimum quality</i>
<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>We have a deliberative process grounded in due process and appropriate concern about litigation, driven by our commitment to quality improvement</i>	<i>The expectation is that accreditation move expeditiously to identify bad actors and prevent substandard institutions from continuing to operate</i>
<i>Innovation</i>	<i>We embrace innovation, typically within our traditional framework</i>	<i>The expectation is for accreditation to go beyond the traditional framework</i>

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WHAT ABOUT 2016?

WATCH...

CONVERGENCE

FEDERALIZATION

COMPETITION

GATEKEEPING REDEFINED

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CONVERGENCE

THINK TANKS, NACIQI, CONGRESS, USDE

***THEY FIGHT OVER AUTHORITY, BUT SHARE
THE SAME NEW IDEAS:***

- ***NEW ACCREDITORS***
- ***PERFORMANCE-BASED ACCREDITATION -
OUTCOMES***
- ***OUTCOMES-BASED QUALITY: GRADUATION
AND JOBS***
- ***DIFFERENTIATION***
- ***TRANSPARENCY***

...DIFFERENT ACTORS WANTING SIMILAR THINGS...

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FEDERALIZATION

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THE CHIEF ARCHITECT OF ACCREDITATION

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS CHANGED THE QUALITY CONVERSATION

FEDERAL ACCREDITATION PROCESS

FEDERAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: EXPECTATIONS OR LEVELS

FEDERAL ACCREDITATION VOCABULARY

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EMERGING COMPETITION

BETWEEN:

- ***NEW ACCREDITORS AND TRADITIONAL ACCREDITORS***
- ***CURRENT ACCREDITORS (IF NON-GEOGRAPHIC)***
- ***CONCEPTS OF QUALITY***
- ***INSTITUTIONS AND EXTENT OF FEDERAL REGULATION – DIFFERENTIATED REVIEW FOR SOME***

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GATEKEEPING REDEFINED

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***FROM GATEKEEPING: WE ARE
RELIABLE AUTHORITIES BASED ON
OUR SELF-REGULATION OF QUALITY***

***TO GATEKEEPING: WE ARE
BECOMING AGENCIES REQUIRED TO
CARRY OUT FEDERAL REGULATION
OF QUALITY***

IF 2015 BECOMES 2016...

IT'S A NEW ERA FOR ACCREDITATION

WE WILL NEED TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF:

- ***ACCREDITATION FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN GOVERNMENT***
- ***GOVERNMENT FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN ACADEMIC DECISION-MAKING***
- ***BEING AN ENTERPRISE GOING WHERE IT DOESN'T WANT TO GO***

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SUMMARY

***2015 A MOMENTOUS YEAR: CONGRESS,
USDE, PRESS, THINK TANKS – CHANGE IN
ACCREDITATION CRITICAL***

***PERSISTENT CALLS FOR CHANGE, NEW
IDEAS, MISMATCH***

***2016: CONVERGENCE, FEDERALIZATION,
COMPETITION, GATEKEEPING REDEFINED***

IT'S A NEW ERA FOR ACCREDITATION

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THANK YOU