

## COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

**Kenneth J. Veit, DO, MBA, Chair**

This report is for the period from June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012. During this period the AOA Commission on Osteopathic Accreditation (COCA) met three times: September 10-11, 2011; December 10 - 11, 2012; and April 21-22, 2012. A training session on COCA standards for representatives of the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COM) was conducted in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) on April 28, 2012.

### COCA meeting in September 2011

The COCA met on September 10-11, 2011 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL). Prior to the meeting on September 10th, an orientation session was conducted for newly appointed COCA members.

Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Two comprehensive site visit reports from COMs were reviewed and accepted: Nova Southeastern University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Ft. Lauderdale, FL); University of North Texas Health Science Center - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Worth, TX).
- ❑ Continuing accreditation was granted to the following COMs: Nova Southeastern University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Ft. Lauderdale, FL); University of North Texas Health Science Center - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Worth, TX).
- ❑ One site visit report for pre-accreditation was reviewed and accepted from the Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, NC).
- ❑ The initial award of pre-accreditation was granted to the Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, NC).
- ❑ One site visit report for the initial award of provisional accreditation was reviewed and accepted for the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, IN). The decision to award was deferred, pending receipt of additional information.
- ❑ Seventeen (17) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from the: A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ); Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA); LECOM (Erie, PA) at Seton Hill (Greensburg, PA); Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, MI) at Macomb and Detroit; Midwestern University/ Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ); Midwestern University/ Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, IL); Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, OH); Pacific Northwest University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA); Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO); University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ); TouroCOM (New York, NY); University of North Texas Health Science Center – Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Worth, TX); Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Virginia Campus (Blacksburg, VA); Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus (Spartanburg, SC); William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, MS); and Western University – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, CA).
- ❑ Three special reports were received and accepted: Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, MO); Pacific Northwest University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA); and Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO).
- ❑ One request for substantive change- curriculum - was reviewed and approved for the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (Lewisburg, WV).  
Two requests for substantive change – class size increase were reviewed and denied: Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); University of Pikeville – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY).

- ❑ Five follow-up reports based upon review of the annual reports were reviewed and accepted for the following COMs: A.T. Still University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kirksville, MO); Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, MO); Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ); New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury, NY); Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Virgin Campus (Blacksburg, VA).
- ❑ Two follow-up reports follow-up reports based upon review of the mid-cycle reports were reviewed and accepted for the: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine – A.T. Still University (Kirksville, MO); and Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Virginia Campus (Blacksburg, VA).

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Review and discussion of the Report of the COCA Study Group on Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education; the report was accepted and directed to the COCA Standards Review Committee to prepare and present its recommendations to the COCA at its December 2011 meeting.
- ❑ Review for planning purposes of correspondence from the American Association for Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine regarding potential revisions to the COCA Handbook and to the standards and procedures document.
- ❑ Review for planning purposes of future activities with the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
- ❑ Analysis of the COMs' programs for identification of students at academic risk and the remediation offered, as provided in the 2010 Annual Report to COCA, was presented and reviewed.
- ❑ Analysis of the COMs' responses to the 2010 Annual Report survey of placement into graduate medical education positions was presented and reviewed.
- ❑ Analysis of the COMs' responses to the 2010 Annual Report presentation of graduation and licensure rates was presented and reviewed.
- ❑ Review of reporting on the Primary Care Scholars Program at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA); the report was accepted.
- ❑ Approval of one nominee to the Evaluators Registry.
- ❑ Approval of the COM Appeal Panel for 2011-2012.

#### COCA meeting in December 2011

The COCA held its fall meeting on December 10-11, 2011 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL). Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ One report from the initial pre-accreditation visit was reviewed and accepted for the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL).
- ❑ The initial award of pre-accreditation was approved for the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL).
- ❑ Three reports from focused site visits were reviewed and accepted for the: Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA); New York College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY); William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, MS). Thirteen (13) progress reports were reviewed and accepted for the: A.T. Still University – School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ); Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, NC); Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); Marian University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, IN); Midwestern University / Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ); Midwestern University / Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, IL); Nova Southeastern University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Ft. Lauderdale, FL); Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, OH); Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine – 2 reports (Yakima, WA); Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY); University of North Texas Health Sciences Center / Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort

Worth, TX); William Carey University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, MS); Western University/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, CA) and its additional location (Lebanon, OR).

- ❑ One special report was reviewed and accepted from the following COM: Pacific Northwest University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA).
- ❑ Two requests for substantive change – class size increase were reviewed and approved: Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); University of Pikeville –School of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY).

Policy and discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ The COCA discussed proposed changes to *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures*. The COCA reviewed and approved for posting to solicit public commentary revisions in the following areas: Chapter I: COM Accreditation Standards, new Domain 8, Graduate Medical Education Outcomes; II: Applicant and Accreditation Procedures, Feasibility Study Procedures; VI: USDE Requirements, procedures for substantive change: class size, additional location, branch campus.
- ❑ The COCA directed that proposed changes to the standards that had been submitted by the Student Osteopathic Medical Association be directed to the Standard Review Committee for its 2012-2013 Workplan.
- ❑ Six individuals were reviewed and approved for addition to the Registry of Evaluators.
- ❑ One vacancy for an alternate member on the COM Accreditation Appeal Panel was filled.
- ❑ Two members of the Consultants on College Accreditation list were reviewed and approved for re-appointment.
- ❑ The 2011 COM class size report was reviewed and accepted. All COMs were within their allotted class size.
- ❑ The 2013 calendar year COM site visit schedule was reviewed and approved.
- ❑ The COCA discussed and approved proposed changes to the COM Annual Supplemental Report.

#### COCA meeting in April 2012

The COCA held its spring meeting on April 21-22, 2012 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL).

Accreditation action items from the agenda included:

- ❑ One report from a comprehensive site visit for continuing Accreditation was reviewed and accepted for the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, MO).
- ❑ Continuing Accreditation status was granted to the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, MO).
- ❑ Two reports from initial comprehensive site visits for accreditation were reviewed and accepted for the following COMs: Pacific Northwest University of the Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA) and Rocky Vista University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO).
- ❑ The initial award of Accreditation status was granted to the following: Pacific Northwest University of the Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA) and Rocky Vista University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO).
- ❑ One report from a comprehensive site visit for continuing Provisional Accreditation was reviewed and accepted for the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, MS).
- ❑ Continuing Provisional Accreditation status was granted to the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, MS).
- ❑ Two reports for initial visits to evaluate progression from Pre-accreditation to Provisional Accreditation Status were reviewed and accepted for the: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL); Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, NC).

- ❑ One report from a focused site visit to evaluate the progression from Pre-accreditation to Provisional Accreditation status was reviewed and accepted for the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, IN).
- ❑ The status “Pre-accreditation with permission to recruit, but not to admit students or offer instruction” was granted to the following colleges for the period from April 22 – June 30, 2012: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL); Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, NC); Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, IN). On July 1, 2012 this accreditation status will have become Provisional Accreditation.
- ❑ One site visit report from a focused visit was reviewed and accepted for the Western University / College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, CA and Lebanon, OR).
- ❑ Three (3) progress reports were reviewed and accepted for the following colleges: A.T. Still University – School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ); Midwestern University / Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ); Nova Southeastern University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).
- ❑ One special report was reviewed and accepted for the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA).
- ❑ One request for substantive change – class size increase - was reviewed and approved for the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (Biddeford, ME).
- ❑ One request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase was reviewed and approved for the Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, OH) to be located in Dublin, OH.
- ❑ One request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase was reviewed and denied for the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY) to have been located in Middletown, NY.
- ❑ One request for substantive change – mission – was reviewed and denied for Midwestern University/Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ). Subsequent to the meeting, a revised mission statement was reviewed by the COCA and approved with a by-mail vote.

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ The COCA discussed proposed changes to *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures*, including the commentary received from the COCA Standards Forum held on March 10, 2012 and the recommendations submitted by the Standards Review Committee following its review of the COCA Standards Forum. After discussion, the COCA approved revisions in the following areas: Chapter I: COM Accreditation Standards, new Domain 8, Graduate Medical Education Outcomes; II: Applicant and Accreditation Procedures, Feasibility Study Procedures; VI: USDE Requirements, procedures for substantive change: class size, additional location, branch campus. These revisions will be posted as of July 1, 2012 to take effect on July 1, 2013 to allow for time to specify the parameters in some of the reporting that is to be required.
- ❑ The COCA authorized staff to pursue technical revisions to its current scope of recognition as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education.
- ❑ Two individuals were approved for addition to the Evaluators Registry.

### **COCA - Executive Committee (COCA – EC)**

#### **September 2011 Report**

In a by mail vote on June 2, 2011, the COCA-EC voted to accept the response to its analysis of the feasibility study of a developing COM, and authorized scheduling an initial visit for review of pre-accreditation.

The COCA-EC met by teleconference on June 27, 2011 to review the third response to its analysis of a feasibility study of a developing COM. The COCA-EC voted to request additional information from the developing COM.

**December 2011 Report**

The COCA-EC met in executive session by teleconference on November 14, 2011 and took the following actions:

- ❑ Reviewed and approved a draft policy governing multiple transfer students from the Medical School in Ponce, PR. (At the time of this meeting, this medical school had just had its accreditation by the LCME terminated. Subsequent to this meeting, and prior to the December 2011 COCA meeting, the accreditation was restored with probation. Therefore, this policy was not implemented.)
- ❑ Reviewed and reaffirmed the current “60 day [prior notification], 30 day [prior receipt of all written supporting materials]” rule regarding bring requests for substantive change to the COCA for review and deliberation.

**April 2012 Report**

The COCA-EC met in executive session by teleconference on February 27, 2012 to review a request from a COM that the COCA seek revision of its scope of recognition by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to include, for participation in Title IV student financial aid programs, COMs in stand-alone for-profit institutions. The COCA-EC voted to recommend to the full COCA that such a revision be sought from the USDE.

**Annual Report Review Committee**

**September 2011 Report** – there was no report from the Annual Report Review Committee at this meeting.

**December 2011 Report** –

The Annual Report Review Committee met via teleconference on Thursday, October 6, 2011, to discuss revisions to the COCA Annual Supplemental Report. The committee reviewed the changes that had been made in the previous year’s report. The Committee felt that the data from the Graduation/Licensure and Graduation/GME Analysis was valuable and that the COCA should continue to collect this data in order to establish trends. It was also proposed that the Annual Supplemental Report should begin in 2012 to collect data from each COM regarding scores for first-time for COMLEX-USA Levels 1, 2, and 3. These scores would be submitted each year and tracked for COCA review as part of the Annual Supplemental Report.

**April 2012 Report** - there was no report from the Annual Report Review Committee at this meeting.

**COM Accreditation Appeal Panel**

There were no appeals heard during this year.

**Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT)****September 2011** –

There were no meetings held between the previous COCA meeting and this one. It was reported that the CCAT had accepted an invitation for the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) to hold their bi-annual workshop for COM representatives on March 28, 2012, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, prior to the beginning of the AACOM Annual Meeting.

**December 2011 Report –**

The committee chair met with staff via teleconference on September 23, 2011 to begin discussing potential presentation topics for the COMs Training Workshop to be held on March 28, 2012, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the AACOM Annual Meeting. *“Back to the Basics: How to Prepare for a COCA Site Visit”* was proposed as the workshop theme.

The committee met via teleconference on October 25, 2011 and approved the workshop theme as proposed on September 23, 2011 together with a final agenda to be presented to the COCA.

**April 2012 Report –**

On January 6, 2012 the CCAT chair met with staff to review the draft agenda and get an update on confirmed speakers for the CCAT workshop. The chair directed staff to revise the format of the morning sessions from individual sessions to that of interconnected parts of one inclusive session spanning the entire accreditation process beginning with the self-study process and concluding with the COCA’s decision-making processing. Staff was also directed to email the working agenda to the full CCAT committee for comment.

On February 1, 2012 the chair held a second conference call with staff members to get an update on the progress of the workshop. The chair also provided possible dates and times for teleconferences with the workshop speakers.

In preparation for the CCAT COMs Accreditation Training Workshop, the Chair hosted two teleconferences with presenters and staff to share his vision for the program as well as review the content of each presenter’s presentation and make suggestions for modification to ensure the consistency, relevancy, and continuity of each session. The first teleconference was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 and included speakers for the afternoon plenary and breakout sessions. The second teleconference was held on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. CST and included speakers for plenary session I, a four-part session that covered the complete site visit process beginning with the self-study process and ending with the COCA meeting/decision-making process.

On March 28, 2012, the CCAT Committee hosted its biennial COMs Accreditation Training Workshop at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The 2012 workshop theme was *“Back to the Basics: How to Prepare for a COCA Site Visit”*. The first plenary session’s topics included: the self-study process; preparing materials for the site visit; support for the visiting team while on site; and what happens at the COCA meeting. The second plenary session closed the morning with a brief look at new and revised standards.

The afternoon began with two breakout sessions of equal content over three separate topics, allowing the participants to select two of the three topics: the mid-cycle report; best practices in preparing a comprehensive faculty adequacy model; best practices in assessing adequacy of clinical education affiliations in both a prospective and retrospective way. The afternoon closed with a session on two hot topics: integration of OPP/OMT into the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year curriculum; and graduate medical education in the COM’s mission.

The workshop had a total of 78 registrants, including the AOA President-elect, one AOA Board member, four COCA members, five CCAT members, eight guest speakers, and one panelist. Four staff members were also in attendance. Of the 78 registrants, 15 completed the evaluation form. The program received an overall rating of 3.9 out of 4.0.

**COCA Standards Review Committee (SRC)**

**September 2011 Report –** there was no SRC report at this meeting

**December 2011 Report –**

On September 28, 2011, the Standards Review Committee met via teleconference to review the proposed changes to the Introduction to the *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures*, Chapter I, proposed addition of GME standards for a new Domain 8 and proposed revisions to

current standards that cross-reference GME. The SRC discussed the proposed changes and made some editorial revisions to the proposed changes in the aforementioned areas. The SRC asked COCA staff to send the changes to them via email for final review before the next scheduled teleconference.

On October 12, 2011, the Standards Review Committee met via teleconference to review proposed changes to Chapter II, Chapter VI, and the Annual Supplemental Report. The proposed changes were discussed and editorial revisions were made. The SRC asked COCA staff to send the changes to them via email for final review and either acceptance or request for further discussion. There was no response for further discussion, therefore, the SRC recommendations as reviewed during the September 28 and October 12, 2011 teleconferences were sent to the COCA as recommendations for changes to the Standards.

#### **April 2012 Report –**

Prior to the annual Standards Forum described in the paragraph below, a teleconference of approximately 90 minutes in length, was conducted with representatives of the AOA, AACOM and COCA on February 23, 2012 to discuss some of the potential implications of the use of a GME Adequacy Model that was included in the proposed revisions circulated for public commentary. The individuals who participated were selected based upon their experience with OGME programs.

A Standards Forum was held on Saturday, March 10, 2012, at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel to discuss proposed revisions to the *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures* as authorized for public comment by the COCA at its December 2011 meeting. Participants in the Standards Forum included Mark S. Cantieri, DO, SRC Chair, Kenneth Veit, DO, COCA Chair, Kenneth Johnson, DO, Chair, OGME *ad hoc* committee, as well as representatives from the AOA, the COM Standards Review Coalition, the AOA Board of Trustees, the AACOM, ACOFP, COMs, and COCA staff. Materials distributed to participants included written commentary received prior to Standards Forum. Participants discussed the proposed revisions, suggested additional changes to the language and intent of the current and revised standards, as well as expressions of consensus with the changes. The testimony was recorded by COCA staff for presentation to the SRC at its next meeting.

The SRC held a teleconference on March 19, 2012, to consider the results of the Standards Forum in its review of proposed changes to the *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures*. The SRC discussed the results of the Standards Forum, reviewed the COCA Forum Notes, a staff analysis and additional proposed changes from Dr. Johnson as a result of discussion at the Standards Forum. The SRC asked staff to make changes according to the proposed revisions, distribute these changes to the SRC and schedule another meeting prior to the April 21-22, 2012 COCA meeting to which proposed revisions would be recommended to the COCA at that meeting.

The SRC held a teleconference on April 3, 2012, for a final review of the proposed changes to the *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures*. The SRC discussed the latest version of the proposed changes that included suggestions from the Standards Forum as well as suggestions from within the committee. There was consensus from the SRC that they now recommend that the proposed changes to the standards are ready to be sent to the COCA for consideration at the April 21-22, 2012, meeting.

#### **COCA *ad hoc* Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education (OGME) Study Committee**

##### **September 2011 Report –**

The Study Group met via teleconference on June 22, 2011. The Study Group proceeded to discuss the proposed standards changes to create a new domain for Postdoctoral Education. In addition, a draft for changes in the Public Disclosure changes in the standards and Annual Report revisions were proposed. The study group made some changes to these proposals and planned to meet via teleconference to discuss the proposed revisions on July 25, 2011.

The Study Group met via teleconference on July 25, 2011 and reviewed the proposed recommendations of changes to the standards to include OGME, which were now submitted in final format. The proposed recommendations were further refined during this meeting. COCA staff was charged with putting all of the data that the Study Group had assembled and the proposed recommendations for changes to the standards into one document for the final review by the OGME Study Group at their next planned teleconference on August 15, 2011.

The COCA ad hoc OGME Study Group met via teleconference on August 15, 2011 to review its final report, "Report of the COCA Study Group on Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education." The Study Group Chair proposed that AACOM staff should be given the opportunity to review the data in the report before the report is sent to COCA Commissioners. It was agreed by the members of the study group that Dr. Johnson would contact AACOM and ask them to review the data in a short timeframe before the report was sent. It was agreed that the report would be sent to COCA Commissioners within approximately 10 days from the August 15 meeting in order for them to review the materials prior to the September 10-11, 2011 COCA meeting.

After delivering its report, this study group was dismissed with the thanks of the COCA.

### **Continuing Recognition of the COCA by the U.S. Secretary of Education**

The COCA staff submitted the current COCA petition for renewal of its recognition as a reliable accrediting agency on January 7, 2011. The work involved preparing narrative responses and attachments supporting the narrative. Some of the attachments were redacted for confidentiality reasons. On March 23, 2011, the COCA staff received the US Department of Education (USDE) draft staff analysis of the petition. The COCA staff submitted the response to the draft staff analysis on April 20, 2011. The USDE analyst attended and observed the April 30 – May 1 COCA meeting. The final staff analysis with a recommendation to grant continuing recognition for a period of five years, based upon a finding of no problems or issues, was received on May 17, 2011. The petition and USDE staff recommendation were presented to the NACIQI at its meeting on June 8-10, 2011. On June 8, 2011, the NACIQI voted to affirm the USDE staff recommendation that the USDE Senior Department Official, Assistant Secretary - Postsecondary Education Eduardo Ochoa, grant the AOA COCA the maximum five (5) years of continuing recognition with a finding of no issues. On July 8, 2011, Assistant Secretary Ochoa renewed the COCA's recognition for a period of five years.