



Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Dear Colleagues,

This week, the [U.S. Department of Education announced in a press release that it intends to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee on Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization \(AIM\)](#). The press release notes the committee will develop proposed regulations to “simplify the Secretary’s recognition of emerging and existing accreditors; examine the extent to which accreditation contributes to rising higher education costs and credential inflation; safeguard against undue influence from related private trade associations; eliminate standards or policies that discriminate on the basis of immutable characteristics; and refocus quality assurance and improvement on data-driven student outcomes.”

Background

As you may know, the Department of Education’s Negotiated Rulemaking (or “neg reg”) process is used to develop Higher Education Act regulations. Department representatives and negotiators from affected interest groups participate on neg reg committees to negotiate proposed rules on various regulations. Following negotiations, the public is provided an opportunity for comment before regulations are finalized by the Department.

ACCJC, along with its C-RAC colleagues, have nominated Dr. Heather Perfetti to represent us at this upcoming negotiation. Dr. Perfetti is chair of C-RAC and president of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. She is a distinguished colleague more than capable of representing the interests of accreditation. Separately, if you have suggestions for other nominees, you may do so *by February 26, 2026*, to negregnominations@ed.gov.

ACCJC continues to monitor, advocate, and engage on these topics with federal partners and will notify you of any new information as it becomes available.

Kind regards,
ACCJC

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