

CAAHEP Annual Meeting Wrap Up (Continued)

Breakout sessions:

Three of the professions in which CAAHEP accredits programs conducted Question and Answer Sessions for the program directors of those profession. This was a first-time endeavor for a session such as this, and it was very well received.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Program directors from several states attended the CAAHEP Annual Meeting in order to attend the Question and Answer session with staff from JRC-DMS. Questions ranged from policies and procedures to Standards review and interpretation. Specific concerns and questions from Program Directors included equity for students in the clinical setting, Standard III - Resources standards and its implications for clinical resources, the difference between standards and guidelines, record retention and fair practices. Attendees found the session informative and indicated that they would recommend hosting a similar session in the future.

Submitted by Cynthia Weiland, Executive Director, JRC-DMS

Medical Assisting

The opportunity for discussion between representatives of the communities of interest and the Medical Assisting Education Review Board was beneficial for all. Attended by seven educators from the local region, and hosted by Judy Jondahl, MAERB Director of Accreditation, the meeting's open dialog focused on the revision process for the Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Medical Assisting, and the value of educator and practitioner input regarding curriculum changes.

Specific areas of educator concern addressed by Director Jondahl and MAERB Chair Cheryl Startzell were strategies for enhanced compliance with the Standards, suggestions for communication with administrators regarding resources, availability of accreditation workshops, and the importance of educational preparation by faculty.

The attendees expressed their thanks to CAAHEP for providing this opportunity and suggested that this type of conversation be a regular feature of CAAHEP meetings.

Submitted by Cheryl Startzell, MA, CMA (AAMA), MAERB Chair



Surgical Technology Breakout Session

Surgical Technology

The Q&A Session with representatives from the Accreditation Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA) was timely for surgical technology program directors attending the CAAHEP Annual Meeting. Having participated in CAAHEP's Open Hearing on the proposed revisions to the Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Technology the day before, the program directors had many pertinent questions. ARC/STSA Executive Director Keith Orloff, ARC/STSA President Betsy Slagle and CAAHEP Commissioner Tony Makin reviewed the proposed changes standard by standard and explained them in detail. A fruitful discussion regarding possible strategies for standards implementation resulted. Both CoA leadership and the program directors appreciated the opportunity for dialogue in a small group.

Submitted by Elizabeth "Betsy" Slagle, MS, RN, CST, ARCST/SA Chair

The Importance of Accreditation to Employers was the fourth breakout option for attendees. Led by CAAHEP Past Presidents Sondra Flemming and M. LaCheeta McPherson, the session reported on how accreditation benefits employers by providing them potential employees from programs that have been found to meet the standards of the profession. The program was joined by Don Lundy, Charleston County EMS, and current President of National Association of EMTs, to give the employer's perspective. According to Mr. Lundy, "The breadth of education given at an accredited program is of great value. Employers see the graduates of an accredited program as better practitioners because they have a better global picture of the patient."



By all accounts, 2013 Annual Meeting was a success! The CAAHEP Board and staff thanks the presenters who gave of their time to share their expertise. Please mark your calendars now for the 2014 CAAHEP Annual Meeting, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, April 27th and 28th. Watch your inbox for registration and hotel information.

Miscellaneous 2013 Annual Meeting Photos



