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Colleges Offer Exemplary Concurrent Enrollment Programs for High School Students

Eleven programs earn accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) announced today that it granted national accreditation to concurrent enrollment programs offered by eleven colleges and universities in Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Washington. NACEP accreditation validates the quality of college courses offered in high schools and ensures that the course content and expectations for student work match the standards of the sponsoring post-secondary institution.

Concurrent enrollment programs at the following colleges earned initial accreditation or reaccreditation:

CONNECTICUT

- University of Connecticut*

IDAHO

- College of Southern Idaho
- Idaho State University

ILLINOIS

- Lewis and Clark Community College*

KENTUCKY

- West Kentucky Community and Technical College

*Reaccreditation

MINNESOTA

- University of Minnesota Crookston*

MISSOURI

- Crowder College

PENNSYLVANIA

- Pennsylvania Highlands Community College

UTAH

- Weber State University*

WASHINGTON

- Everett Community College
- University of Washington - Seattle*

NACEP Accreditation Commission Chair Jaclyn Dumond, Manager of School Partnerships at the University of Southern Indiana, remarked: "We are very excited to award this prestigious recognition to these eleven programs. By undergoing NACEP's rigorous accreditation peer-review process, these schools have demonstrated that their concurrent enrollment programs are of the highest standard. The high school students enrolled in their programs are, without a doubt, receiving the same quality education as they would receive on the college campus. We are very proud to recognize these institutions for their commitment to concurrent enrollment program excellence."

Dr. Jay Box, Chancellor, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) stated: “With the development of the *2010-2016 Business Plan for Transforming Kentucky*, KCTCS established a transformation strategy for dual credit that would ‘develop a consistent, statewide program of dual credit, using the NACEP standards as a framework.’ West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) has not only implemented NACEP standards in its dual credit program but has also gone the extra mile of seeking and receiving NACEP accreditation. We are pleased that WKCTC is the first in Kentucky to obtain this high recognition and to also be the first program within the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) region to become NACEP accredited.”

To earn accreditation from NACEP, concurrent enrollment programs conduct a self-study, document how their programs adhere to NACEP’s seventeen standards, and are evaluated by peer reviewers from NACEP-accredited programs. NACEP’s standards were developed and refined over many years, serve as a model for quality standards in sixteen states, and are implemented by a wide range of higher education institutions.

The NACEP Accreditation Commission manages NACEP’s accreditation process, reviews Peer Review Team reports and makes accreditation decisions. NACEP-accredited programs recently elected Leslie Hardaway of NorthWest Arkansas Community College to join the Commission as a two-year postsecondary institutional representative. Becky Carter of Indiana University was reelected to another two year term as a four-year postsecondary institutional representative.

The full listing of ninety-two programs nationwide currently accredited by NACEP can be found at: <http://nacep.org/docs/accreditation/NACEPAccreditedPrograms.pdf>.

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About the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships: NACEP works to ensure that college courses offered in high schools are as rigorous as courses offered on the sponsoring college campus. As the sole accrediting body for concurrent enrollment partnerships, NACEP helps these programs adhere to the highest standards so students experience a seamless transition to college and teachers benefit from meaningful, ongoing professional development. To advance the field and support our national network of 270 colleges and universities, 35 high schools and school districts, and 15 state agency and system office partners, we actively share the latest knowledge about best practices, research, and advocacy. Our annual conference in Chicago, Illinois, October 26-28, 2014, will once again be the premier destination for college officials, high school leaders, policymakers, and researchers interested in creating an effective academic bridge between high school and college.