



CoARC NEWSLETTER

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

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President's Report — Kathy J. Rye, EdD, RRT-ACCS, FAARC

It's a New Year! 2014 virtually flew by and what a busy year it was at the CoARC. I'm sure many of us made New Year's resolutions to be better individuals with a purpose of creating a greater community. However, the last few weeks brought the full fury of winter down on many parts of the country. Snow and cold do not only shut down our schools/offices and slow down our travel, they sap our spirits as well. So, with Spring right around the corner, it is time to get moving!

As the information in this newsletter confirms, the past year has been a period of unprecedented recognition, dynamism, and success for the Commission. In our ongoing effort to demonstrate accountability through competency-based, outcomes-centered standards that require programs to achieve and demonstrate valid measures of success, the 2015 CoARC Accreditation Standards for Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice will be implemented in June 1, 2015.

Some of the most exciting things happening in CoARC are the new opportunities created to assist Respiratory Care students and faculty. The Commission approved two new scholarships (in addition to the Steve Mikles Media Award) that will be administered through Lambda Beta beginning in 2015 (see page 9 of this Newsletter).

Comments have been received from our communities of interest on the third draft of the Degree Advancement Standards. The Post-Professional Education Committee will be recommending revisions to the full Commission at this meeting. We anticipate sending a final draft of the Degree Advancement Standards to AARC, ATS, ASA, and ACCP after the March 2015 meeting for endorsement. If the Standards are endorsed, the CoARC could potentially begin accepting applications from programs by mid 2015.

The APRT Standards have been sent to the AARC, ATS, ASA, and ACCP for endorsement and we have received endorsement from the AARC of those standards already. We do expect endorsement from our other three collaborating organizations in the next month and anticipate publishing endorsed APRT Standards after the March 2015 meeting. The Commission will be developing application and self-study/site visit documentation in spring 2015 and we anticipate being ready to accept applications by mid/fall 2015.



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President’s Report (Continued)

The Commission recognized 49 outstanding programs for the 2013 Distinguished RRT Award. While we continue to celebrate the success of our educational programs, we also have worked hard to open channels of communication to allow our communities of interest to provide us feedback on the different aspects of accreditation. The information derived from the dialogue with our constituents has tremendous value and helps us plan strategically to make your experience with accreditation even better.

It continues to be a revitalizing and challenging time for CoARC. I want to extend a special thanks to all of the valuable volunteer site visitors and Commissioners who have made the achievements of the past year possible. We welcomed sixteen new site visitors last year. The Commission said goodbye to Dr. Ron Allison last year and welcomed new Commissioners, Dr. Steve Stogner, Dr. Christine Hamilton, and Dr. Shane Keene. It would be impossible to carry out the mission of the organization without our volunteer’s hard work, as well as the outstanding support of the Executive Office staff: Tom Smalling, Jana Anderson, Lisa Collard, Bonnie Marrs, and Shelley Christensen.

It is truly a privilege to serve as President of this organization and work with such a distinguished group of colleagues. In the 7 years that I have served on the Commission, we have faced many challenges. Regardless of the trials and tribulations we have faced, we have pulled together as a team and collaborated to find strategies to transform our organization. It is indeed an exciting time to be a part of the CoARC as we look to the future with confidence grounded in our mission, inspired by our communities of interest and collaborating organizations, and guided by our commitment to serve the public by ensuring high quality respiratory care education through accreditation services.

CoARC Program Data

The 2014 Report on Accreditation is available for download from our website (www.coarc.com). The report provides (a) Descriptive statistics of CoARC Programs as of December 31, 2014; (b) Accreditation actions taken in 2014; (c) Aggregated statistics of graduate, enrollment, and outcomes data from the 2014 RCS, and (d) Programmatic data related to the AARC 2015 and Beyond Project.

The program data table below is from the Executive Director’s update to the Commission made at the March meeting held in Bedford, TX on March 19-21, 2015.

Table 1 – Program Numbers by CoARC Level as of March 1, 2015 (n = 445)			
	200-level	300-level	400-level
Continuing Accreditation	378	16	7
Probationary Accreditation	13	0	0
Provisional Accreditation	25	0	0
Inactive Accreditation	2	0	0
Approval of Intent	3	0	2
Letter of Intent	0	0	0
Total # of Associate Degree Programs			373 (85%)
Total # of Baccalaureate Degree Programs			61 (14%)
Total # of Master’s Degree Programs			3 (0.7%)

Notable CoARC Board Decisions in 2014

- Approved the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan;
- Re-elected Dr. Pat Munzer, DHSc as an AARC rep to CoARC;
- Approved filling the vacant at-Large Therapist position. Dr. Christine Hamilton, DHSc (TN) was elected in July and began her term at the close of the November Board meeting;
- Dr. Steven Stogner, MD was elected in July and began his term as ATS rep (MS) at the close of the November 2014 Board meeting;
- Accepted the ASAHP appointment of Dr. Shane Keene (TN) as the replacement for Dr. Shelledy in early 2014. Dr. Keene was elected to permanently replace Dr. Shelledy and began his term at the close of the November Board meeting;
- Approved the final draft of the Accreditation Standards for Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice to go into effect June 1, 2015;
- Approved the final draft of the Standards for Accreditation of Advanced Practice Programs (APRT) in Respiratory Care;
- Approved a third draft of the Accreditation Standards for Degree Advancement (DA) Programs in Respiratory Care;
- Selected Dr. George Burton for the 2014 Bonner Smith Outstanding Service Award;
- Selected Diane Flatland as the 2014 Recipient of the Dr. Kendall Outstanding Site Visitor Award.
- Selected 49 recipients for the 2014 Distinguished RRT Award;
- Approved 16 new site visitors following the completion of training in May and June;
- Conducted a free webinar “Engaging Clinical Sites and Preceptors” (available for viewing at www.coarc.com);
- Posted actions taken on programs at March, July, and November Board meetings (available at www.coarc.com/11.html);
- Approved fee changes associated with new program add-ons;
- Approved major revisions to Accreditation Policies (effective 1/1/15 – see separate notice):
- Revised CoARC website to make it more mobile- and user-friendly;
- Participated in a Joint Announcement from the AARC, NBRC and CoARC Regarding Policy 13;
- Provided California Society for Respiratory Care with a formal response to a petition on November 15th. A copy of the response is available on the CoARC’s website.

Postponement of Accreditation Actions on Overall Graduate and Employer Satisfaction Data

The CoARC began collecting overall graduate satisfaction (OGS) and overall employer satisfaction (OES) survey data in the 2010 reporting year. Originally, the CoARC stated that no accreditation actions on overall graduate and employer satisfaction outcomes would take place until the 2013 reporting year. However, because the calculations of OGS and OES were reported incorrectly the CoARC will not take accreditation action on graduate and employer satisfaction outcomes until the submission of the 2015 annual report of current status (RCS).

Friendly Reminder

The Annual Report of Current Status (RCS) portal is open for updating and input of your program data. The next RCS is due July 1, 2015. The "Submit Report" button has been hidden until it is time for programs to submit their report for the 2015 cycle.

Executive Director’s Report—Thomas R. Smalling, Ph.D., RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) is to ensure that high quality educational programs prepare competent respiratory therapists for practice, education, research and service.

SCOPE

CoARC accredits respiratory care degree programs at the Associate, Baccalaureate, and Master’s Degree level in the United States. The CoARC also accredits professional respiratory care degree programs offering certificates in polysomnography.

THE VALUE OF PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITATION

Provides consumer protection, advances and enhances the profession, and protects against compromise of educational quality.

CORE VALUES

- Professionalism
- Service
- Collaborative Leadership
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Excellence

If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s we rob them of tomorrow. – John Dewey



I am pleased to share updates from CoARC since the last annual report. It is a privilege for me to oversee the work of this wonderful organization and an honor to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of CoARC's dedicated volunteers and staff. As usual, this past year has been another busy and exciting year for CoARC. Our Board of Commissioners, Officers, volunteers, and Executive Office staff are to be commended for their role in revising and developing policies and standards in support of CoARC’s mission and strategic plan.

Respiratory care practice continues to evolve. This progression is evident in the growing role of Respiratory therapists (RTs) as inter-professional team members in multiple settings across the health care spectrum including acute and critical care, sub-acute, in-patient and preventative care, as well as chronic care, ambulatory, and out-patient/home care. In response to the need to ensure that programs are adequately preparing RTs for their expanding role in healthcare, the CoARC is nearing completion of the process of developing two new sets of accreditation Standards (Degree Advancement and Advanced Practice) – a process which was started over two years ago and has involved many countless hours of volunteer time, staff time, and input from our professional community. These Standards, along with the revision of the Entry into Practice Standards, are part of CoARC’s ongoing efforts to demonstrate accountability to the public through competency-based, outcomes-centered standards that require programs to achieve and demonstrate valid measures of success.

While most are familiar with the intent and purpose of accreditation standards for entry into practice, the development of the Standards for Accreditation of Advanced Practice Programs (APRT) in Respiratory Care and the Accreditation Standards for Degree Advancement (DA) Programs in Respiratory Care has resulted in, understandably, confusion by many in the respiratory care community about which set of Standards apply to which type of program and for what purpose.

A degree advancement program (also referred to as degree completion program) is an educational program designed specifically to meet the needs of the practicing respiratory therapist who, having already completed an accredited respiratory care program with an earned entry into respiratory care professional practice degree is returning to school to obtain a higher degree. The Degree Advancement Standards are designed to recognize the

Executive Director's Report (continued)

competencies and value-added above and beyond the *entry into respiratory care professional practice* degree. Degree advancement programs are different from *entry into respiratory care professional practice* programs in purpose, design and content. Entry into Professional Practice programs prepare individuals with no respiratory care professional background or experience with the competencies needed to enter the profession, whereas degree advancement programs expand the depth and breadth of the applied, experiential, and propositional knowledge and skills *beyond* that of an RRT entering the profession.

Advanced practice respiratory therapists (APRTs) will function as mid-level providers, who assess patients, develop care plans, order and provide care and evaluate and modify care based on the patient's needs and response to therapy. The APRT will provide and direct care under the guidance of a supervising physician, often directed by clinical protocols. APRTs will be formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, critical care and preventive care services, as delegated by a physician. APRTs will work in multiple settings across the health care spectrum including acute (ED or urgent care) and critical care, sub-acute, preventative care, and chronic care and ambulatory care. Working as members of the health care team, they will take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and imaging studies, order respiratory care diagnostics and provide acute, critical and chronic care to patients.

The CoARC will continue its efforts to inform the profession and the public on these new Standards through meeting updates, presentations, and webinars in the coming year. In closing, I would like to thank all of the CoARC volunteers who have selflessly given their time and talents to assuring the quality of respiratory care education. Your hard work and dedication are sincerely appreciated. It is a privilege for me to oversee the work of this wonderful organization and an honor to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of CoARC's dedicated Board members, site visitors, and staff.

Did You Know?

A substantive change is one that the CoARC believes is significant enough to require the program to notify the CoARC of its occurrence (<http://www.coarc.com/42.html>.) The sponsor must report substantive change (s) to the CoARC for approval prior to the intended date of implementation, with the exception of an adverse action by the institutional accrediting agency or a change in the program's institutional accreditation status (see Accreditation Policy 1.07). The CoARC is responsible for reviewing all substantive changes that occur between regularly scheduled comprehensive on-site evaluations to determine whether or not the change has affected the quality of the total program and to ensure the public that all aspects of the professional program continue to meet defined standards. While the decision to implement a substantive change is an institutional prerogative and responsibility, the CoARC is obligated to determine the effect of any substantive change on the program's ability to meet the *Standards* and Policies.

2014 Distinguished RRT Award Recipients

CoARC has determined the recipients of the CoARC 2014 Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award. In selecting programs for this recognition, the CoARC Board used objective criteria based on key accreditation metrics documented in the 2014 Annual Report of Current Status (RCS). These programs were required to: (1) have three years of outcomes data, (2) hold accreditation without a progress report; and (3) have RRT credentialing success of 90% or above with green in all outcomes thresholds. Sixty-two (62) out of 438 programs in the country met these criteria. The CoARC extends its sincere congratulations to these programs, their faculty, students, and graduates for meeting these rigorous criteria. These recipients will receive the 2014 CoARC Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award certificate during a CoARC reception at the 2015 AARC Summer Forum. Below is the list of recipients for 2014.

Keep in mind that the conferral of this achievement award does not imply the CoARC's recommendation, endorsement or ranking of any program in relation to other CoARC accredited programs. Publications or announcements of this award shall not imply such recommendation, endorsement, or ranking. The primary responsibility of CoARC is to accredit programs based on their compliance with established accreditation standards.

American River College	Macomb Community College
Baker College	Mt. San Antonio College
Bellarmino University	Nassau Community College
Broward College	Ohio State University
Chattanooga State Community College	Ohlone College
Chippewa Valley Technical College	Oregon Institute of Technology
Collin College	Ozarks Technical Community College
Dakota State University	Palm Beach State College
Dalton State College	Pima Medical Institute-Denver
Dona Ana Community College	Pitt Community College
Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell	Polk State College
El Centro College	Rush University Medical Center
Erie Community College	Santa Fe College
Florida SouthWestern State College	Sinclair Community College
Foothill College	Skyline College
Georgia State University	Spartanburg Community College
Greenville Technical College	St. Alexius Medical Center/Univ of Mary
Gwinnett Technical College	St. Johns River State College
Gwynedd Mercy University	St. Petersburg College
Harrisburg Area Community College	Stanly Community College
HCCS: Coleman College of Health Sciences	Stony Brook University
Henry Ford College	Texas Southern University
Indian River State College	Tidewater Community College
Indiana Respiratory Therapy Ed Consortium	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Ivy Tech Community College-North Central	University of Missouri at Mercy Hospital
Ivy Tech Community College-Region 14	University of Missouri-Columbia
Kapiolani Community College	University of Texas Medical Branch
Kettering College	Weatherford College
Long Island University	Weber State University
Louisiana State University Health Science—New Orleans	Weber State University-IHC Campus
Louisiana State University Health Science—Shreveport	West Chester University

Revised CoARC Policies and Procedures Released

CoARC continually evaluates accreditation practices and maintains appropriate policies and procedures to ensure an effective and efficient process leading to fair and consistent treatment of all respiratory care programs. In concert with the work of its 9 standing committees, the CoARC Board revised some policies and procedures. The following summarizes some of the more substantive changes made to the policies and procedures that were approved in 2014 and took effect on January 1, 2015 (additional and more detailed changes are described on our Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual at <http://www.coarc.com/31.html>):

1.03 Scope of Accreditation

The CoARC accredits only RC programs offered by or located within institutions chartered by and physically located within the United States and where students are geographically located within the United States for their education.

1.050 Accreditation Process and Cycle

The process for reaffirmation has been clarified.

1.052 Initial Accreditation

This status has been eliminated. Information regarding the accreditation process was sent to those programs currently holding Initial Accreditation in January 2015.

1.053 Probationary Accreditation

Accreditation status has been revised and clarified.

1.056 Withdrawal of Accreditation - Voluntary

The process has been revised.

1.11 Submission Deadlines

Clarification of due dates for submitting documentation.

2.0 Initiation and Reaffirmation of Accreditation

The entire section has had extensive revisions, including the addition of degree advancement and APRT program options. All program options (including satellites) will have a self-study and site visit prior to each accreditation status change.

3.012 Ongoing Review

Definitions have been clarified.

4.03 Submission of Necessary Documentation

Clarification of due dates that better align with Policy 1.11.

6.011F4b Absences and Vacancies of Key Personnel

No International Satellites.

7.03 Clinical Affiliates

No affiliates outside the US.

9.0 Request for Substantive Changes

Revisions for substantive change requests.

11.0 Disclosure of Accreditation

CoARC program ID numbers must be added to the status disclosure of a program.

Institutional vs. Programmatic Accreditation: What is the Difference?

Institutional accreditation evaluates overall institutional quality. Institutional accreditation is focused on verifying the administrative policies, procedures and stability. Institutions must be institutionally accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education for the students of that institution to be eligible for Title IV (financial aid) programs. One form of institutional accreditation is regional accreditation of colleges and universities. There are 8 regional accreditors. There are also over a dozen other institutional accreditors that include national faith-based accreditors and national career-related accrediting organizations— several of which are the accreditors for institutions sponsoring respiratory care programs. For more information about institutional accreditation, please visit the U.S. Department of Education website at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>

Programmatic accreditation examines specific programs of study, rather than an institution as a whole. This type of accreditation is granted to specific programs at specific levels. Architecture, nursing, law, medicine, engineering programs, and over 60 other disciplines are often evaluated through specialized accreditation. For more information about programmatic accreditation, please visit the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) website at www.aspa-usa.org.

Purposes of Programmatic Accreditation

- To hold respiratory care programs accountable to the community of interest — the profession, consumers, employers, students and their families, practitioners— and to one another by ensuring that these programs have goals and outcomes that are appropriate to prepare individuals to fulfill their expected roles;
- To evaluate the success of a respiratory care program in achieving its goals and outcomes;
- To assess the extent to which a respiratory care program meets accreditation standards;
- To inform the public of the purposes and values of accreditation and to identify programs that meet accreditation standards.
- To foster continuing improvement in respiratory care programs — and, thereby, in professional practice.

Interactive map of CoARC Programs Available!

As of December 31, 2014, there were a total of 447 programs and program options under an accreditation review by the CoARC. These programs are sponsored by public and private higher education institutions as well as two programs sponsored federally by the U.S. Army and Air Force.

In addition to this report, the following are two links (one for RC programs and one for sleep specialist program options): For RC programs: <http://www.maptive.com/ver3/RC2014CoARCRCSData>. For sleep specialist program options: <http://www.maptive.com/ver3/PSGCoARC2014RCSData>.

On-Time Graduation Rate Threshold to Go Into Effect this Year:

Beginning with the Annual Report that was due July 1, 2011 all programs were required to report their on-time graduation rate (OTGR). The OTGR is defined as the Total Number of On-time Graduates divided by the Total Number of Graduates. This is calculated as the number of students who graduate with their enrollment cohort (i.e., within thirty (30) days of their expected graduation date) divided by the total number of students who graduated on-time and students who graduated after the expected graduation date. The enrollment date and the expected graduation date of each cohort are specified by the program. The 70% threshold will be effective with the submission of the 2015 Annual Report of Current Status due July 1st.

CoARC Announces Two New Scholarships

George G. Burton, MD Student Educational Research Scholarship

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) has established a scholarship through the Lambda Beta Society to support up to \$2,000 for educational or accreditation research by a student of a CoARC-accredited program. Original research, a Master's Thesis, or Doctoral Dissertation with practical value to the respiratory care profession is acceptable submissions by a candidate. This award consists of \$2,000 cash and a certificate of recognition to be awarded at the 2015 AARC Congress (attendance at the awards ceremony is not a requirement for receiving the award). Further details about eligibility, criteria, and the application process will be available soon.

For more information on the application process, contact the Lambda Beta Society at 913.895.4610.

Louis Sinopoli, PhD, RRT, FAARC Educational Research Fund

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) has established a scholarship through the Lambda Beta Society to support up to \$2,000 for educational or accreditation research by a faculty member (or members) of a CoARC-accredited program (or programs). Original research with practical value to the respiratory care profession is an acceptable submission by a candidate. Others may submit a complete research proposal for consideration. This award consists of \$2,000 cash and certificate of recognition to be awarded at the 2015 AARC Congress (attendance at the awards ceremony is not a requirement for receiving the award). Further details about eligibility, criteria, and the application process will be available soon.

For more information on the application process, contact the Lambda Beta Society at 913.895.4610.

2015 CoARC Meeting Dates

March 19-21, 2015 - Bedford, TX

July 12-14, 2015 - Phoenix, AZ

November 19-21, 2015 - Bedford, TX

General Responsibilities of CoARC Commissioners

- a. Attend scheduled Board meetings and participate as voting members;
- b. Present program recommendations to CoARC Board;
- c. Communicate concerns related to the accreditation process to CoARC Board;
- d. Review accreditation recommendations and make decisions on the accreditation status of programs;
- e. Serve as Program Referee;
- f. Participate in site visits;
- g. Serve on standing or ad hoc committees, attend meetings related to accreditation, etc.;
- h. Take appropriate action to avoid conflict of interest in carrying out commissioner responsibilities;
- i. Report to their respective collaborating organizations on a periodic basis (with the exception of the public and at-large members).

Third-Party Comments

CoARC invites third-party comment on those institutions undergoing an evaluation for Approval of Intent, Provisional, Initial, or Continuing accreditation. The purpose of CoARC’s review is limited to assessing the institution’s ability to meet CoARC’s accreditation Policies and Accreditation Standards for the Profession of Respiratory Care. Comments must be written and signed (i.e., not anonymous) and must include contact information. Submission of a comment grants permission for the comment to be shared with the program. Comments should specifically address one or more of CoARC’s *Accreditation Policies* or accreditation *Standards* (*Accreditation Policy 1.12* and www.coarc.com/30.html).

How Do The Credit Hours of My Program Compare to Others?

In 2014, the CoARC conducted a review of total number of credits required for the degree/program. Credit information was obtained either through the program’s web page or institutional catalog. As expected, the information was difficult to interpret in many cases due to the varying definitions of credit hours. The following are the results of the credit hour review:

Number of Programs Where Info Could Not Be Found	42
Number of Programs Where Info Was Not Provided in Credit Hours	7
Average Number of Credit Hours for the Associate Degree (n=338)	77
Average Number of Credit Hours for the Baccalaureate Degree (n=57)	123
Average Number of Credit Hours for the Master’s Degree (n=2)	36
Average Number of Credit Hours for the Sleep Certificate (n=5)	9

Complaint Process...

<http://www.coarc.com/26.html>

It is the policy of CoARC to review all complaints received from any source, including students, against either an accredited program or CoARC itself that are related to compliance with CoARC’s standards, policies, and procedures and to resolve any such complaints in a timely, fair, and equitable manner using established timelines for each step of the complaint procedure.

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Did You Know?

CoARC has processes that call for CoARC to inform the public about accreditation decisions. One of the ways CoARC does this is to provide the public with information about the accreditation decision process. CoARC provides the public with a description of the nature and scope of CoARC accreditation activity as well as the importance and value of accreditation (<http://www.coarc.com/46.html>). CoARC also provides the public with detailed descriptions of its accreditation policies and procedures by publishing its Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual (<http://www.coarc.com/31.html>). In addition, CoARC provides a list of programs scheduled to be reviewed prior to each Board meeting as well as the final accreditation actions taken following each meeting (<http://www.coarc.com/11.html>). This listing is categorized by accreditation action. CoARC is currently considering policy revisions that will clarify the disclosure of accreditation decisions that strikes a balance between CoARC's objectives of becoming more transparent while ensuring a clear and accurate interpretation by the public of the context of such decisions.

Definition of Graduation

The new NBRC Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) admissions policies require the applicant to “be a graduate and have a minimum of an associate degree issued by the sponsoring educational institution. Both CoARC and the NBRC will have a mutually-agreed upon definition of the point at which a student is considered a graduate (and therefore can apply to the TMC Examination). For RCS reporting purposes, programs must record the actual graduation date for each student in the Student Profile section of the RCS (as opposed to when the student completes the program, for example). As you may know, these are two very different dates with the latter date coming first chronologically. However, this date is often not necessarily the date the graduate earned the degree. The official date of graduation is the date that is posted by the registrar to the student’s transcript.

Spotlight on a CoARC Committee

The site visit is the most complex aspect of the accreditation process. It is also the most visible function of the CoARC. Site visitation teams usually have two members, one of whom may be (and in some cases, must be) a physician. Site visitors are on-site objective observers and gatherer of the “facts” that are reported back to the CoARC Referee as a part of the ongoing processes of accreditation and reaccreditation. During one to two days at a campus, site visitors interact with all of the communities of interest, review pertinent documents, and, when appropriate, inspect program facilities. Through this process, the CoARC ensures that each program’s documentation supports the analysis and action plans related to its resources and outcomes. Further, the visit offers an opportunity to document the degree to which the program meets the Standards. Further details regarding the site visit process can be found at <http://www.coarc.com/32.html>. In 2014, there were a total of 16 site visits. The site visit review committee is responsible for:

- Monitoring the site visit process for accreditation.
- Presenting site visitor appointments to the full Board after the site visitor application is reviewed and the potential site visitor is interviewed.
- Conducting site visitor training for initial and continuing site visitors.
- Conducting peer review evaluations (PSQ’s).

Those interested in applying are strongly encouraged to review the CoARC Site Visitor Policies and Procedures Manual (available on our website) before contacting the Executive Office regarding application as a site visitor.

Are You Compliant With Disclosure Requirements?

CoARC Policy 11.0 requires institutions and programs to be accurate in reporting to the public the program’s accreditation status. Publication of a program’s accreditation status must include the full name, CoARC program number(s), mailing address, website address, and telephone number of the CoARC. As part of Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Recognition requirements, the CoARC must conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance with disclosure information. The following are the results of an audit conducted in 2014:

Total # of Programs Reviewed	447
# of Programs Fully Compliant with Standard 5.01	225 (50.3%)
# of Programs Fully Compliant with Standard 5.03	236 (52.8%)
# of Programs Fully Compliant with both Standards	146 (32.7%)

The CoARC plans to repeat the disclosure audit during the administrative review of the 2015 Annual Report of Current Status (RCS) and to notify programs of non-compliance upon completion of the audit. Check your websites and publications now to ensure compliance and avoid a non-compliance notice!

CoARC Redesigned Web Site

In 2014, the CoARC’s web site was redesigned to be more mobile-friendly. Please contact us at webmaster@coarc.com if you see anything that needs to be changed or with comments of what you would like to see added.

CoARC Presentations at the 2014 AARC Summer Forum

H.F. Helmholtz Educational Lecture Series

Enhancing the Science and Practice of Respiratory Care Through Academic Progression and Life-long Learning

Toni L. Rodriguez Ed.D, RRT FAARC

Go to our website (<http://www.coarc.com/11.html>) to view her presentation.

CoARC Symposium:

Update on the 2015 CoARC Standards for Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice

Allen N. Gustin Jr., MD, FCCP

Update on Post-Professional Education (Degree Completion and Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist (APRT))

Kathy Rye, EdD, RRT, FAARC

Evaluating Student Competencies

Allen N. Gustin, Jr, MD, FCCP

Common Triggers for Progress Reports and Possible Solutions

Bob DeLorme, EdS, RRT-NPS

Go to our website (<http://www.coarc.com/11.html>) to view the presentations.

CoARC Presentations at the 2014 AARC International Congress

Next Steps in Developing the Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist (APRT)

Charles Cowles, MD, MBA

Update on Standards for Degree Advancement Programs

Tom Smalling, PhD, RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC

Go to our website (<http://www.coarc.com/11.html>) to view the presentations.

Outstanding Site Visit Award Presentation at the AARC International Congress

The CoARC recognizes up to two active Site Visitors annually, for dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the CoARC's mission of ensuring the high quality of respiratory care education. Nominations are made by the CoARC Commissioners.

In addition to meeting the minimum qualifications for a Site Visitor as described in the CoARC Site Visitor Policies and Procedures Manual, a nominee must have participated in at least three (3) CoARC site visits within the past two (2) years by the nomination deadline. In addition, nominees must not have any negative evaluations within the same two-year period, and have provided a special contribution to the site visit process.

The award was named for Dr. Ralph Kendall, MD as a permanent expression of CoARC's grateful recognition of his outstanding service as a site visitor and mentor. Dr. Kendall became a site visitor for CoARC in 1989 and has performed approximately 28 site visits over the past 6 years. Dr. Kendall also served as Chair of the CoARC Site Visit Subcommittee from 2003 to 2009. His expertise and assistance to program personnel and in training new site visitors is unparalleled and through the establishment of this award will not be forgotten.



The fifth annual Dr. Ralph Kendall, MD Outstanding Site Visitor Award was presented to Diane Flatland, MS, RRT-NPS.

Ms. Flatland became a site visitor for the CoARC in 1990 and has participated in 15 on-site reviews over the past 5 years. Ms. Flatland has also served as a Commissioner on the CoARC since 2010, and has been a long-time active member of the Site Visit Committee. Her dedication to the accreditation process has been seen in numerous ways by consistently volunteering for site visits, mentoring new site visitors, and serving as a presenter on many Site Visitor Training Webinars.

Ms. Flatland has been described as an excellent site visitor and a great role model that has a positive attitude, and is very organized, knowledgeable and clear about all aspects of the site visit process. This type of dedication and long-term service to the CoARC should not go unnoticed. THANK YOU!

Outstanding Service Award Recipient Presentation at AARC Summer Forum



In 2011, the profession and CoARC lost a true friend. Bonner Smith, JD, was a public member of the CoARC for over 13 years and served on almost every committee during his tenure.

In 2013, the CoARC established a new award named after Mr. Smith. The award recognizes one individual annually for demonstrating outstanding and enduring service to the profession of respiratory care through its educational accreditation system. The award is intended to honor individuals for exemplary contributions as members of the Commission or its predecessor (JRCRTE).



The award was presented posthumously to Mr. Smith in 2013 at the CoARC Awards Ceremony during the AARC Summer Forum in Orlando, FL. Accepting the award, on behalf of Mr. Smith, was his wife, Shelly, and his daughter, Bonny.

The second annual Bonner Smith Outstanding Service Award was presented to Dr. George G. Burton, MD in 2014 at the CoARC Awards Ceremony during the AARC Summer Forum in Marco Island, FL.

Dr. Burton began service to the JRCRTE in 1976, serving as an ACCP representative. He served as Chair of the JRCRTE from 1979 to 1980 and also served as chair-elect in 1997 to 1998 before CoARC was formed. During his tenure with the JRCRTE, Dr. Burton served on many committees, held several offices, and participated in a number of site visits.

In 1998, Dr. Burton continued his service as an ACCP representative to the CoARC until 2002 when he became an ATS representative to the CoARC Board. He served in that capacity until 2005.

Dr. Burton currently serves as a CoARC representative for issues related to advanced practice. Congratulations Dr. Burton on more than 26 years of service involving respiratory care accreditation!



Recognition of 2014 CoARC Site Visitors

The following individuals have graciously contributed to CoARC's mission by volunteering their time and expertise as site visitors in 2014. Members that served as team captains are designated by asterisks.

Elaine Allen, BA, RRT-NPS, RPFT, RPGST, RST
 Thomas Baxter, EdD, RRT*
 John Boatright, PhD, RRT*
 Phyllis Brunner, BS, RRT*
 Tracy Cagen, MHRM, BSRT, RRT
 Joseph Coyle, MD*
 Martha DeSilva, MEd, RRT-ACCS, AE-C
 Diane Flatland, MS, RRT-NPS, CPFT, RCP, LP*
 Ian Gilmour, MD
 Thomas Harding, MS, RRT, RCP*
 Shane Keene, DHSc, RRT-NPS, CPFT, RPSGT*
 Barbara Larsson, Med, RRT
 Brad Leidich, MEd, RRT, FAARC*

Doug Masini, EdD, RPFT, RRT-NPS, AE-C, FAARC
 Marby McKinney, MEd, RRT-NPS
 Ed Moser, MBA, RRT, RCP
 Pat Munzer, DHSc, RRT, FAARC*
 Kevin O'Neil, MD, FACP, FCCM
 Michael Prewitt, PhD, RRT*
 Gina Ricard, MS, RRT-NPS
 Jill Sand, BS, RRT*
 Monica Schibig, MA, RRT-NPS, CPFT*
 Paul Taylor, DHSc, RRT
 Rick Zahodnic, PhD, RRT-NPS, RPFT, AE-C
 Beth Zickefoose, BS, RRT-NPS, RPFT

THANK YOU!

The 2014 Report on Accreditation is Available on www.coarc.com!

It provides critical data in the following four areas:

- Descriptive statistics of CoARC programs as of December 31, 2014;
- Accreditation actions taken in 2014; and
- Aggregated statistics of graduate, enrollment, and outcomes data.
- Programmatic data related to the AARC 2015 and Beyond Project.

Did You Know?

The CoARC makes most accreditation decisions during its Board meetings three times per year (typically in March, July, and November) based on an accreditation review cycle described in Section 1 of the *2014 CoARC Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual* (revised version available at www.coarc.com/31.html.) The statuses of Administrative Probation, Voluntary Withdrawal of Accreditation and Voluntary Inactive Accreditation do not require a vote by the CoARC Board and are processed by the Executive Office throughout the year. There were a total of 116 accreditation actions taken by the Commission as well as 57 accreditation actions processed by the CoARC Executive Office in 2014.

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- Self-Study Content Questions
- New Program Inquires
- Questions about Annual Reports
- Polysomnography
- Standards & Guidelines Questions
- Consortia Agreements
- Change in Sponsorship



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- Key Personnel Changes
- Program Address & Name Changes
- Requests for Verification of Accreditation Status
- All Meeting Planning



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- Assist with Self-Studies
- Status of Accreditation Actions
- Special Projects
- Progress Report Submissions



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Director of Finance and Operations (Extension 103)

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- Billing/Accounting
- Report of Current Status (annual report) questions
- Submission of Annual Reports
- CoARC Newsletter
- Website & Database Support



Bonnie Marrs, BS

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- Scheduling Site Visits
- Site Visitor Applications and Assignments
- Site Visit Surveys
- On-Site Review Reports



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