



Site Visitor News

Greetings from CoARC:

With this third edition of the CoARC Site Visitor e-newsletter, we are pleased to bring you the latest news and information about the CoARC site visit process. We will send you three updates per year, after each of our Board meetings.

If you have any ideas about how to improve the newsletter, please let us know!

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

The following are highlights of changes to site visit policies and procedures approved by the Commission at its meeting this past March. For details on these changes, please visit the [Site Visitor Resources](#) web

Issue #3
Spring 2017

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Site Visit Distance Learning Issues

Dr. Rye stated that the Committee discussed some concerns with interviewing students of Distance Learning programs in relation to the percentage of students interviewed and that students were hand-picked by the program. The Committee discussed having programs send a list of current 1st-year and 2nd-year students with email addresses, and a list of graduate students with their email addresses. Emails would then be sent out to schedule web conferences for the site visit team to meet with each group.

Opening and Closing Scripts

Dr. Rye noted that the Committee reviewed and revised the Opening and Closing Scripts for the Site Visit and is recommending the following Opening Script:

Site Visitor of the Year Recipient

Dr. Rye asked if anyone has nominees for Site Visitor of the Year to please send those to her or Ms. Marrs as soon as possible so that we can get it voted on at the June meeting.



Lot of old site visit documents lying around your house or cluttering up your computer???

If you have any questions about this process, feel free to contact [Bonnie Marrs](#) or [Tom Smalling](#).

NEW TEAM CAPTAIN

At its March meeting, the CoARC Board approved Diane R. Oldfather, MHEd, RRT, FAARC, as a CoARC Site Visit Team Captain.

Congratulations!

NEW SITE VISITOR

At its March meeting, the CoARC Board approved Ms. Kira M. Anderson, Program Chair at Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences, as a CoARC Site Visitor.

Participation Update

Dr. Rye reported that so far this year we have completed 12 site visits and there are an additional 13 site visits scheduled in the latter part of the year; two of them will be Degree Advancement programs.

Dr. Rye noted that the Committee recently hosted 4 Site Visit Training Webinars and thanked Dr. Smalling and Ms. Marrs for setting them up and Dr. Coyle, Ms. Chronister, and Dr. Hamilton for participating in the instruction of the webinar.

Dr. Varekojis agrees that the Overall Satisfaction question should be moved to the top of the form. Psychology says you answer from top to bottom and fatigue says you don't complete the bottom of the survey. It can't hurt to try it to see if that solves the problem. The Commissioners agreed it needs to be moved to the top of the forms.

DA - We have reviewed and revised the Site Visit Agenda, the Faculty Evaluation form, the Student Evaluation Form, and PSSR Evidence List.

Student Program Resource Survey

Dr. Barker reviewed the edits proposed for

Congratulations!

POLICY REMINDERS

All information made available to site visitors for and during their evaluation is to be considered confidential. Site visitors are required to sign a confidentiality statement. Disclosure of any information obtained during the accreditation process is a breach of confidence. Team members are also privy to a number of opinions expressed by individuals during their many interviews; these too are confidential. Site visitors should refrain from discussing any aspect of an institution, even positively, with anyone other than representatives of the institution or individuals involved in the accreditation process. While site visitors are encouraged to be on the lookout for exceptional evaluation instruments or other things that may be beneficial to other programs, such material may be utilized only with the express written consent of appropriate institutional personnel.

Site visitors must decline any assignment in which a real or potential conflict of interest may be perceived. This includes assignment to programs in which close personal friends (or enemies), former associates, former students or relatives are employed, or institutions at which the site visitor has been employed. Site

the Student Program Resource Survey and stated that is the recommendation from the Committee ([See Appendix A](#)).

RECENT CoARC ACTIVITIES

The CoARC Board published a revision to its Accreditation Standards for Entry into Respiratory Care Professional Practice

With specific changes to:

- Qualifications for minimum degree from an Educational Sponsor in Standard 1.01 (Institutional Accreditation)

With clarifying changes to:

- Evidence of Compliance/Interpretive Guidelines to 1.03 and 1.04 (Sponsor Responsibilities), 2.01 (Institutional Resources), 2.03 (Key Personnel), 2.11 (Medical Director), 3.05 (Assessment of Program Goals), 3.06 (Student Evaluation), 3.09 (Reporting Program Outcomes), 4.03 (Minimum Course Content), and 5.03 (Public Information on Program Outcomes), and Glossary.

visitors should also disqualify themselves if at any time in the past they have served as a consultant to the program or the sponsor. Conflict of interest may also arise when a clear disparity in the values, philosophies, or orientations of the program and the site visitor would make an objective evaluation difficult or impossible.

The sponsor is responsible for providing video-free and audio-free facilities for the site visit team to work and conduct interviews. Surveillance and/or recording of site visitors during the site visit are prohibited.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Our Summer Meeting will be at the [AARC Summer Forum](#) **June 24 - 26, 2017** in Tucson, AZ.

Later CoARC Board meetings are scheduled for **November 9-11, 2017** and **March 8-10, 2018** both in Bedford, TX.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The [Revised Standards](#) will become effective on **January 1, 2018**. For more information concerning this announcement, please contact [Tom Smalling](#), Executive Director.

Revised [Accreditation Policies](#) went into effect on **January 1, 2017** with clarification to 1.055 (Administrative Probation) and 4.04 (Correspondence to Programs)

Attrition is Out...Retention is In!

The CoARC Board approved changes to the [retention](#) (formerly attrition) outcomes measure which became effective January 1, 2017;

The threshold is 70% retention of the total number of students in the enrollment cohort (3-year average).

Non-academic attrition is not included in the threshold calculation!

With the advent of the NBRC TMC Exam, all graduates entering the profession must take a written examination with two cut scores. Achieving the higher cut score means the graduate earns the CRT and is eligible to take the CSE to earn the RRT.

CoARC has been gathering data over the past couple of years in order to identify a



The CoARC would like to congratulate Joe Coyle, M.D. program director for the degree advancement programs at the University of North Carolina Charlotte campus. Dr. Coyle recently had a successful CoARC site visit for not one, but two-degree advancement programs. The program site visits were conducted simultaneously over a 2-day period. The BSRT program has been in operation for several years and is one of the premier degree completion programs for respiratory therapists available in a totally online format. The program currently has over 200 students and takes about 100 new students annually. The program is in such demand that there is at times a waiting list for students to get in. The baccalaureate program was such a success that Dr. Coyle continued his efforts for the respiratory therapists of North Carolina seeking higher education by introducing the state's first MSRT program. Dr. Coyle understands the value of both a robust curriculum and having programmatic accreditation. Dr. Coyle is truly an innovator in online education and affording working therapists the ability to achieve their educational goals. The CoARC currently has 4 other degree advancement

high cut score threshold. In spring 2018, an announcement will be made once the data has been reviewed and a threshold established.

[Graduate, Employer](#), and [RAM](#) surveys were revised.

Please remember to update your web-based survey programs!

CoARC revised site visit documents related to degree advancement in preparation for first DA site visit of UNC Charlotte in April 2017.

[FAQ](#) – Ensuring Consistent Clinical Evaluations was added to the CoARC website.

SPOTLIGHT ON SITE VISITORS

programs that are being scheduled for site visits and several that have expressed intent to apply before the end of the year. If you have any questions on degree advancement please contact Shane Keene, Associate Executive Director at shane@coarc.com or 423-335-0297.

CoARC Activities at the



**Saturday, June 24th
8 am-11 am**

CoARC and NBRC Course:

Compliance with CoARC Standards: What are Key Elements from NBRC Reports. Course capacity is limited. Pre-registration not required.

**Saturday, June 24th
12-1:30 pm**

Meet the Referee

One-on-one appointments with the referees and Executive Office staff.

**Sunday, June 25th
5-6:30 pm**



**R. Curtis Aumiller, MS, MBA, RRT-NPS,
RPFT**

**Professor, Program Director of
Respiratory Therapy
Harrisburg Area Community College**

I feel extremely fortunate to have been involved in respiratory therapy for 32 years. I started the profession as an OJT and realized that I need more education so that I do not harm someone because I do not know WHY I am doing something. This led me to enroll in the respiratory program at Harrisburg Area Community College. After graduation, I never really left the college. I started working as an adjunct as a lab assistant, then clinical and didactic coursework. Eventually, I became the Director of Clinical Education. It was during

CoARC Awards Ceremony

Presentation of 2016
Distinguished RRT Award
certificates;

Presentation of CoARC Louis
Sinopoli, PhD, RRT, FAARC
Faculty Educational Research
Scholarship and George G.
Burton, MD Student Educational
Research Scholarship;

Presentation of Bonner Smith
Outstanding Service Award.

**Monday, June 26th
8:30 am-9:55 am**

**CoARC Symposium -
Bridging the Gap: Strategies
for Improving a Program
Graduate's Ability to Transition
Successfully to Employment**

A Department Manager's
Perspective – Ken Winn, MHA,
RRT

An Accreditor's Perspective -
Allen Gustin Jr MD FCCP

**Tuesday, June 27th
11:15 am-12:15 pm**

**21st Annual Dr. H. Fred
Helmholz MD Education
Lecture Series**

this time, with the mentoring I received from my Program Director, Brad Leidich, that I became a CoARC site visitor in 2007. When the Program Director position became available, I felt it was a perfect fit for me. As a CoARC site visitor, I love helping my colleagues across the country to assess their programs. I find that the consultative aspect is a great way to tackle the situations that we are all experiencing. I have even been doing consulting work for schools who need help to meet CoARC standards, prepare for a site visit, or to mentor new key personnel. Doing a site visit allows me the opportunity to either learn something new that I might want to try at my program, or be very grateful for what I have in my program and help others try to achieve the outcomes necessary.

I have made many new friends/colleagues by being a site visitor, and it is great to have the resource of reaching out to these individuals to share policies, forms, or just bounce new ideas. Being a site visitor allows you to make these connections and allows you to bring your students the knowledge and wisdom that is laying outside of your geographic area. We are all working together to provide our future respiratory therapists with the best education we can give them, which in turn gives our patients (and sometimes us) the

The Value of Degree
Advancement Programs for
Progression of the Respiratory
Therapy Profession

Presenters:

Shane Keene, DHSc, RRT,
FAARC
Joe Coyle, MD

best care that can be delivered. It is a great way to help make a difference in the grand scheme of the profession.



Carole (Kelly) Crawford-Jones, MS, RRT
Professor and Program Director
Respiratory Therapist Program
Illinois Central College
Peoria, IL

I began my career in respiratory therapy in the early 1970's and was fortunate enough to work in research with some of the pioneers in ventilator modes at the University of Florida. I have seen many changes in health care, in our profession and in respiratory therapy education.

I am currently a professor and program

director at Illinois Central College in Peoria, Illinois. I have immensely enjoyed the opportunity to influence and teach our next generation of respiratory therapists for the last twenty years.

Another accolade of my career has been serving CoARC as a site visitor for the past ten years. I started by discovering that the best way to know my own program was to see other programs. In this role I have been able to meet many other educators, administrators and physicians with the same passion for respiratory therapy education. From this experience as a site visitor I have learned that this passion reaches from California to Florida, as north as the tip of Maine and all the way to the southern border of Texas. We all share similar challenges and I enjoy helping with the process of ensuring high academic and professional standards.

I look forward to the continued advancement of our profession in the ever-changing health care arena in America and in the world.

Bonnie Marrs, BA

Site Visit Coordinator / Accreditation Services Assistant (Extension 102)

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