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MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

PA Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED IMPACT: HOW STATES AND ACCREDITORS ADVANCE QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

August 5, 2026 | 10:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M., CT

State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)

Higher Education Policy Conference

MEET THE PRESENTERS



Lynette Kuhn

Pennsylvania Department of Education



Heather Perfetti

Middle States Commission on Higher Education



Tracey Schneider

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

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Goals of Presentation

1. Understand complementary roles and responsibilities across state agencies and accrediting bodies, including how authority, oversight, and quality review intersect.
2. Identify effective state and accreditor partnership strategies to address complex quality assurance issues.
3. Identify proactive steps to maintain engagement across the Triad.
4. Create an action plan to ensure the sharing of data and information that lends to quality assurance and supports the strengthening of public confidence in higher education.

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Our Partnership: What's Important

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What defines our work together?

- Transparency & Trust
- Understanding & Respecting Roles and Responsibilities



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Opportunities & Challenges

Strategies for Quality and Accountability in the Triad

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Opportunities & Challenges: Institutional Work

- Authority
- Data Sharing
- Closures
- M&A Interests
- Complaints
- NC-SARA

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Opportunities & Challenges: Beyond the Institutions

- Collaboration through Events
- Strategic Planning
- Policies and Procedures Review
- Standards Review



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Building a Strategic Accreditor-State Partnership

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Strategies that Work!



- Center Students
- Communication Strategies
- Information-Sharing
- Reduce Duplication of Effort for Institutions
- Intentionality



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What's Next?
Changes in the Future

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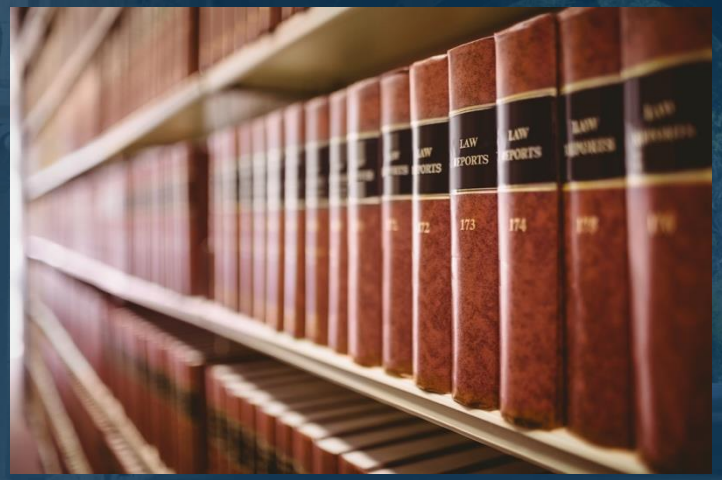
Federal & State Impacts



Discussion of state and federal movements, including:

- **Workforce Pell**
- **AHEAD Regulations**
- **AIM Negotiated Rulemaking**

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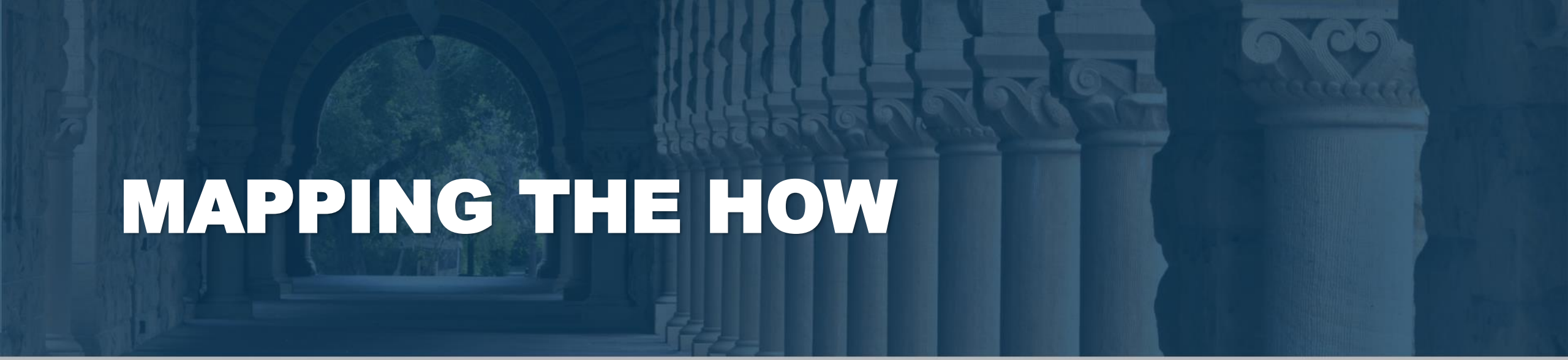

MAPPING THE HOW

MAP YOUR NEXT STEPS: CREATING AN ACTION PLAN

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QUESTIONS

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THANK YOU

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