SREB

SREB Educational Technology Cooperative

2015 Spring Workshop Series
State Authorization Update

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Educational Technology Cooperative
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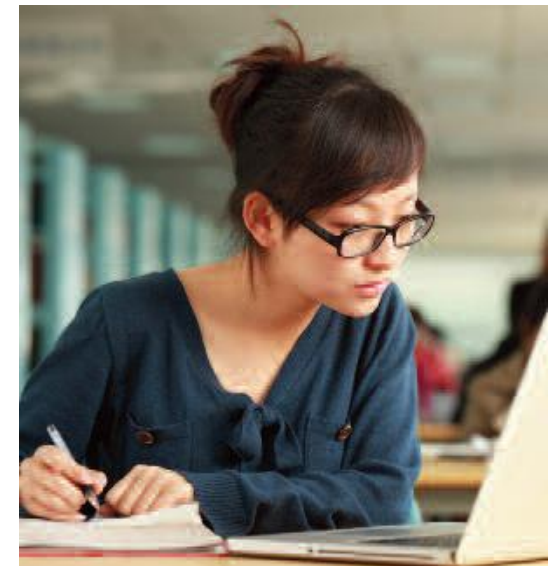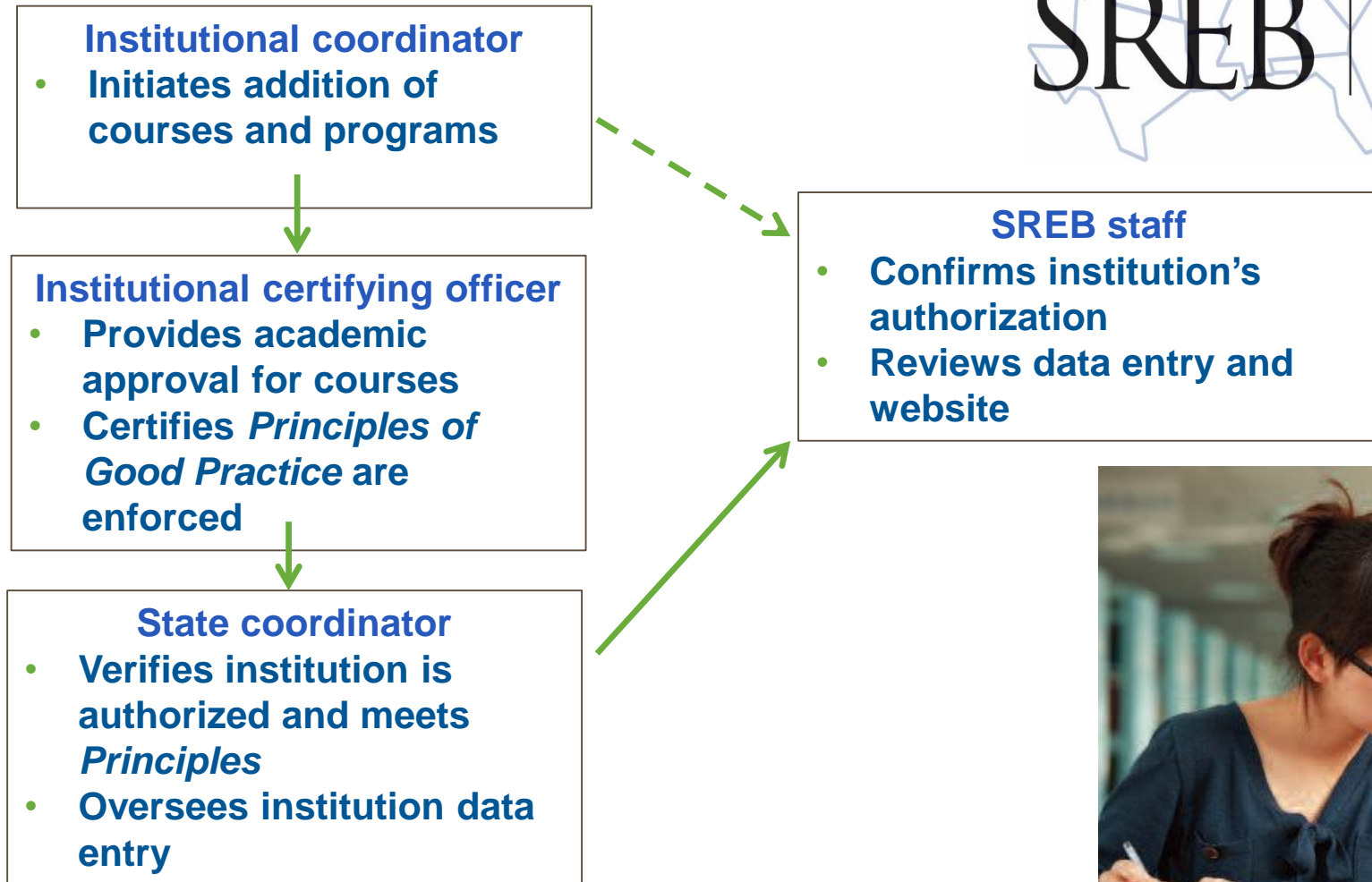**Student Access Programs and Services**

SREB's Electronic Campus (EC)

- Launched in 1998 with 100 courses.
- Academic Year 2014-2015
  - Almost 37,000 courses and 3,500 programs
- Institutions are regionally accredited, not-for-profit and chartered in a SREB state
- State review and approval
- Institutions meet *Principles of Good Practice* and *Common Standards*

Electronic Campus
Overview of the Approval Process, 1998-2015

Institutional coordinator
- **Initiates addition of courses and programs**

Institutional certifying officer
- **Provides academic approval for courses**
- **Certifies *Principles of Good Practice* are enforced**

State coordinator
- **Verifies institution is authorized and meets *Principles***
- **Oversees institution data entry**

SREB staff
- **Confirms institution's authorization**
- **Reviews data entry and website**

- - - ➤ Notification ⟶ Submission

What's the problem?

- Our country lags many others in the educational attainment of our 18-34 age population.

- Distance education can play an important role in increasing attainment. We need to maximize its contributions.

- States and territories regulate higher education within their borders, with varying requirements for out-of-state institutions that want to do business in the state.

- At present there is no alternative to each institution separately pursuing any needed approvals (state authorization) in each state and territory where it enrolls students.

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What's the problem?

- **Consequently, thousands of institutions must contact and work with as many as 54 states and territories, and, sometimes, with multiple regulatory agencies in those states.**

- **That process is inefficient, costly, and not effective in supporting access to high quality distance education throughout the country.**
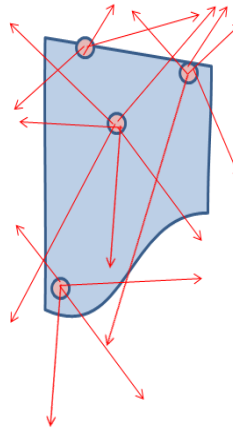
SARA GOALS

SARA establishes a state-level reciprocity process that will support the nation in efforts to increase the educational attainment of its people by making state authorization:

- **more efficient, effective, and uniform in regard to necessary and reasonable standards of practice that could span states;**

- **more effective in dealing with quality and integrity issues that have arisen in some online/distance education offerings; and**

- **less costly for states and institutions and, thereby, the students they serve.**

SARA Key Elements

Through reliance on established community expectations and its own expectations, SARA provides consistent standards and procedures for:

- **Academic Integrity**
- **Financial Responsibility**
- **"Physical Presence"**
- **Data Collection and Sharing**
- **Catastrophic Closings**
- **Student Complaint Processes**

Overseen by a National Council

Administered by the Regional Compacts
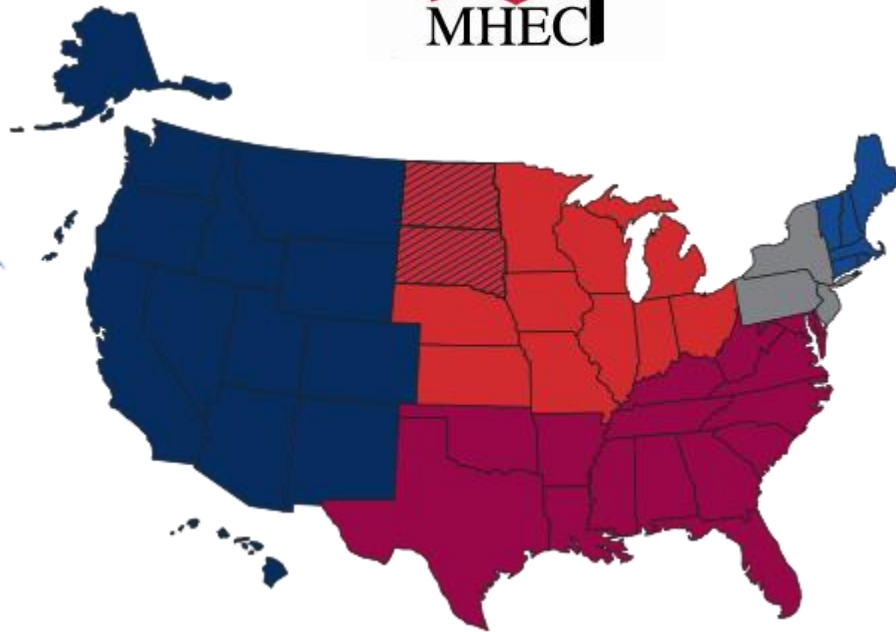
SARA States (6/24/15)

Plus Alaska

SREB STATES & SARA
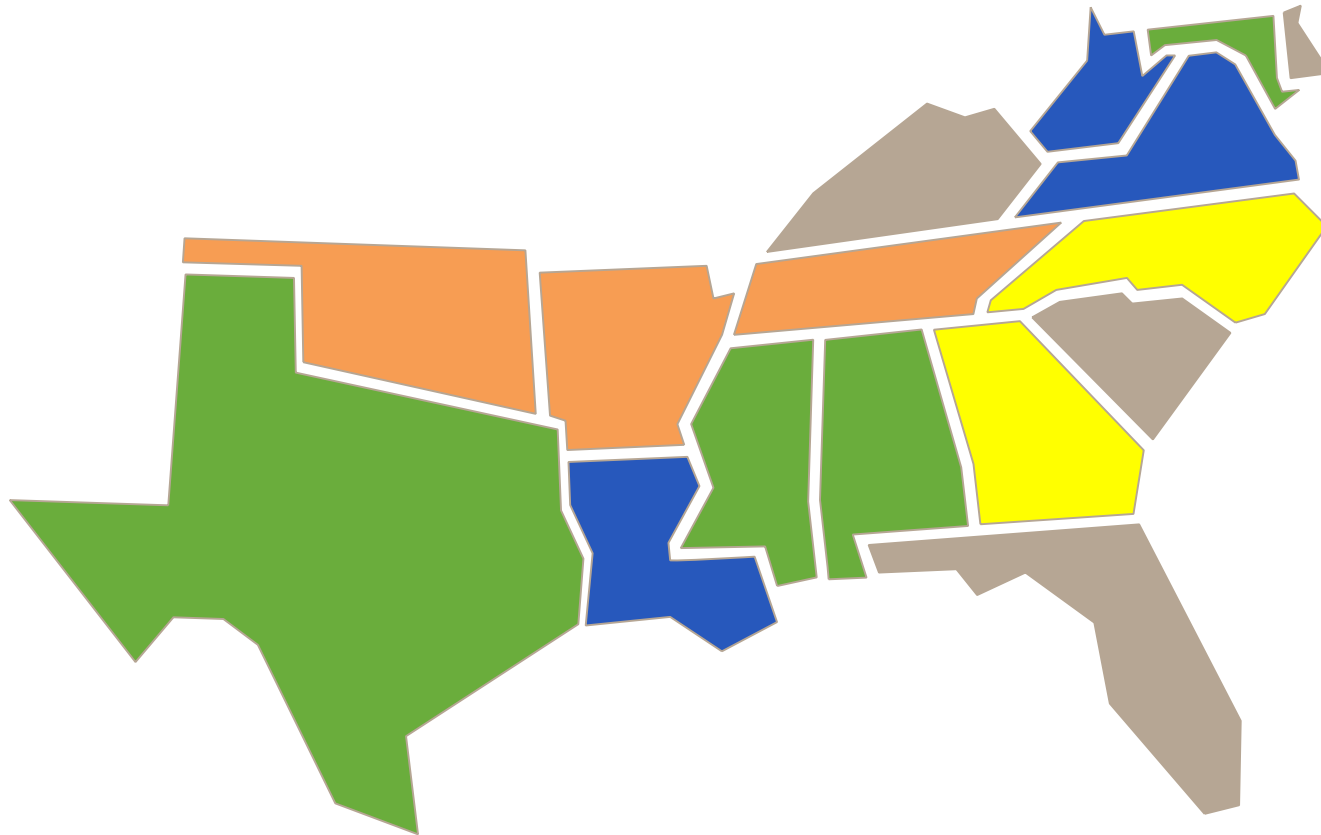
Blue – SARA state
Green – Legislation passed
Orange – SARA application in process
Yellow – Legislation not needed

District of Columbia & Pennsylvania

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SECRRA to SARA
Differences

- **Consistent use of Physical Presence**
- **All degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors**
- **Student Complaint Process formalized**
- **Institution approved**
  - **Not specific courses and programs**
- **Reduced authorization "costs" outside the region**

Moving from SECRRA to SARA

SREB is fully supportive of the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

- **Cannot have a 'competing' process for reciprocity**

- **Transition will impact the Academic Common Market/Electronic Campus**

- **Regional Compact for Health Professions**

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Programs and Services

Moving from SECRRA to SARA - When

When eight SREB states have joined SARA, SREB will announce the date SREB's Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRA) will be dissolved and remove the reciprocity agreement for the region.

- Maintaining SECRRA and transitioning to SARA will result in parallel operations.

- Electronic Campus States and Institutions will continue with current processes and procedures to maintain participation in SECRRA and reciprocity with the other SREB states.

- Institutions in SREB states that do not join SARA after SECRRA dissolves will need to seek authorization from <u>all</u> states including the SREB region.

- It is anticipated eight SREB states will have joined in SARA by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

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For More Information

- **www.nc-sara.org**

- **To receive the NC-SARA newsletter, sign up**

at: www.nc-sara.org

- **To receive the SREB State Authorization e-mail contact SARA@sreb.org or mary.larson@sreb.org**

SREB SARA Websites

www.sreb.org/SARA or ide.sreb.org

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