CCE
THE COUNCIL ON
CHIROPRACTIC
EDUCATION

CCE Announcement
February 24, 2011

The Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) has completed a several-year effort to review and revise its *CCE Accreditation Standards - Principles, Processes & Requirements for Accreditation*. At its January 2011 annual meeting, the Council made minor revisions to the draft Standards forwarded to it by the Standards Revision Task Force, and then approved these Standards by unanimous vote. The new Standards will become effective in January 2012.

The Council is both proud and appreciative of the many hours spent on this project by the Task Force and its chairman, Dr. Lance Blackshaw. The Task Force was comprised of experienced educators and representatives of nine different chiropractic educational programs, several active members of the CCE, representatives from major professional organizations, field practitioners, and public members. Over the past several years, the Task Force met in person on several occasions, exchanged countless electronic communications, and sponsored numerous meetings of its various subcommittees. Two drafts were circulated for public commentary, one in 2009 and a second in 2010. Feedback was received from a wide spectrum of the profession, educational institutions, regulatory bodies, professional associations, the public and other interested parties. Representatives of the Task Force had the opportunity to meet with many different organizations and interested groups to discuss the process and the evolving draft Standards. The Task Force spent considerable time analyzing and discussing the many comments and suggestions from the CCE's constituents and stakeholders. The Council, in turn, spent hours discussing and carefully considering the recommendations of the Task Force.

Periodic review of accreditation standards is not only necessary to satisfy regulations of the US Department of Education, but is also an essential responsibility of an accrediting body to continually monitor and improve its effectiveness, and thereby provide a means to ensure continuous quality improvement in its accredited programs and institutions.

From the outset of the Standards revision process, a major goal was to focus on educational assessment and outcomes rather than simple quantitative measures, thereby promoting programmatic improvement in the educational process. Rather than dictate very detailed curriculum requirements and competencies, the approach taken by the Task Force and supported by the Council was to construct broad meta-

8049 N. 85th Way • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258
Phone: 480.443.8877 • Fax: 480.483.7333 • E-mail: cce@cce-usa.org

competencies and supporting measureable outcomes, and to then require the DC programs to define and measure achievement of specific competencies for professional practice in the context of the meta-competencies and the program's mission statement. Every program must demonstrate effective and continuous self-assessment, planning, and improvement.

The 2012 Standards provide the DC programs with much greater flexibility in designing curricula and clinical experiences to achieve the required meta-competencies and clinical outcomes. The DC programs will be expected to clearly define the outcomes students are expected to achieve as learning objectives, how the attainment of these objectives is measured, and how the learning objectives and program outcomes integrate with the required meta-competencies and prepare the student for entry into chiropractic practice as a primary care chiropractic physician. The 2012 Standards also allow DC programs to innovate in educational delivery and curricular development, yet still mandate coverage of major topic areas and ensure that chiropractic principles, practices, history and philosophy, are thoroughly addressed in the curriculum.

Finally, the Standards provide numerous examples of evidence that that DC programs may utilize to demonstrate compliance with specific accreditation requirements.

The 2012 Standards will be disseminated in hard copy to all CCE-accredited programs in the coming month. Currently, the document may be accessed by visiting the CCE Web site at http://www.cce-usa.org. Additionally, the CCE Web site will soon post a comparative analysis of the second draft and the final, approved Standards. This will enable readers to ascertain how the Task Force and the Council incorporated the feedback received from the public on the second draft.

Any questions may be directed to the CCE Administrative Office.

David J. Wickes, D.C., Chair
Council on Chiropractic Education

Lee Van Dusen, D.C., President
Council on Chiropractic Education