


**COE 101**  
An Overview of the History,  
Culture, and Resources  
of the Council on Occupational  
Education



Gary Puckett  
Executive Director

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**History of Accreditation**

- Derivation
- Evolution
- Standardization

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**Council Heritage**

- 1967 Southwide Conference on Occupational Education Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- 1971 Commission on Occupational Education Institutions Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- 1995 Council on Occupational Education National Institutional Accrediting Agency
- 2011 Celebrated 40 Years of Service

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**COE Mission**

Assuring Quality and Integrity  
in Career and Technical Education

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**COE Core Values**

- Trustworthiness
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Commitment
- Flexibility
- Planning
- Sharing

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**COE Goals**

- Assuring the quality and integrity of institutions
- Assisting in institutional improvement
- Validating instruction for job skills and professional competencies
- Holding institutions accountable for learning outcomes
- Enhancing public understanding of the value of career and technical education

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**COE Recognition**

Recognized by the  
U.S. Department of Education  
as a reliable authority  
in determining institutional quality.

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**Benefits of COE Accreditation**

- Continuous Institutional Review and Improvement
- Continuous Programmatic Review and Improvement
- Continuous Local Industry Review of Occupational Programs
- Continuous Reviews against normed National Standards, as well as Educational and Industry Standards

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**Benefits of COE Accreditation (cont.)**

- Professional assistance and support is provided in preparing for the review
- Professional evaluation from out of state review teams
- Networking and sharing of best practices among other institutions and states
- Continuous review cycle of 2 – 6 years provides relevance and validity to accreditation process

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**COE is an *Institutional* Accreditor**

- All PROGRAMS offered by the institution must be approved by the Commission
  - Long and short programs
  - Title IV qualifying and non-qualifying
- All LOCATIONS where instruction occurs must be approved by the Commission
  - Whether across town or across the street
  - Whether only one class or entire programs

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**Accreditation Standards**

- Institutional Mission
- Educational Programs
- Program and Institutional Outcomes
- Strategic Planning
- Learning Resources
- Physical Resources
- Financial Resources
- Human Resources
- Organizational Structure
- Student Services and Activities
- Distance Education

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**COE Vital Statistics**

- 585 Member Institutions
- Operating in 38 States in US & 10 Countries Worldwide
- Serving over 231,000 full-time equivalent students
- Over 208 Million Hours of Quality Instruction
- 10,120 Total Career Program Offerings
- Over 15% of programs offer Associate Degrees
- Over 10% of programs offered through distance learning

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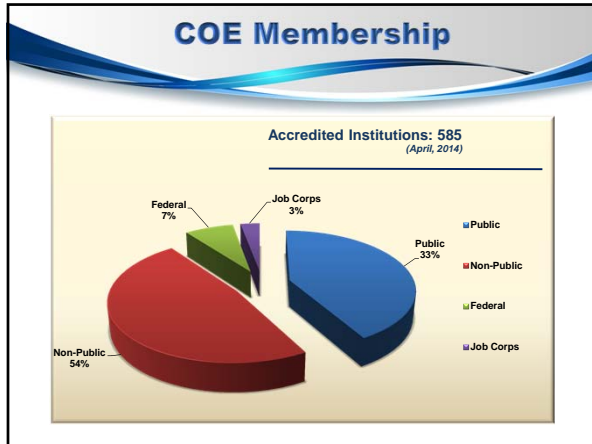
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- ### The Commission
- Twenty-member Commission elected by COE institutions
  - Represents cross-section of educators and public officials
  - Meets twice a year to take action on institutional accreditation matters
  - Executive Committee meets additional two times each year

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- ### COE Staff
- Tina Charest: Administrative Assistant to Alex**
  - Marcia Cox: Assistant Executive Director**
    - Program approvals
    - Changes to existing programs
  - Anita Lachonna: Assistant to Sue and Renee**
  - Tami Maynard: Executive Assistant**
    - Meeting planning
    - Office communications
  - Cliff Owen: Accountant**
    - Institutional accounts
    - Institutional audit reviews

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**COE Staff**

- ❑ **Laura Page: Executive Assistant**
  - ❑ Non-degree program approvals
  - ❑ Changes to existing programs
- ❑ **Renee Pellom: Assistant Executive Director**
  - ❑ Accreditation visits
- ❑ **Gary Puckett: Executive Director**
- ❑ **Anita Rogers: Assistant to Alex and Marcia**
- ❑ **Sue Schooler: Associate Executive Director**
  - ❑ Accreditation visits
  - ❑ Institutional Audit Reviews

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**COE Staff**

- ❑ **Cindy Sheldon: Associate Executive Director**
  - ❑ Annual Report/CPL Reporting
  - ❑ Database management
- ❑ **Kay Smarr: Administrative Secretary to Cindy**
- ❑ **Alex Wittig: Associate Executive Director**
  - ❑ Candidate process
  - ❑ Substantive Change and Associate Degree approvals
  - ❑ Notifications and Complaints

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**Vision Sketch**

COE is the **premier** accreditor for occupational education in the world. It is a **solvent** agency with continuous growth. Its reputation is **unsurpassed** as the gold standard for quality. Its public value is **respected** by all levels of higher education. The student achievement of its institutions is **exemplary**.

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