

# State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

First Annual School Meeting

Richmond Marriott West  
4240 Dominion Boulevard  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

8:00 – 9:00 Registration/Breakfast

9:00 – 9.30 Opening Remarks

Linda H. Woodley, Director, Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Education  
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo, Director, Academic Affairs and Planning  
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

9:30 – 10:30 General Session

**How Accreditation Can Help With Institutional Improvement**

Michael Lambert, Executive Director, Distance Education and Training Council

10: 45 – 12:00 Breakout Sessions

**The Program Integrity Regulations, HEA Reauthorization**

*(This session specifically for Title IV participating institutions)*

Dr. Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid, Virginia Tech

**Best Practices Panel**

*(This session specifically for unaccredited institutions)*

Student Tracking – Thompson H. Hanavan

President, Professional Bartending School, Arlington, VA

Student Records Maintenance – Regina E. Welch,

Dean for Student Services, Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing, Richmond, VA

Curriculum Development – Dr. Albert C. Gray

Executive Director and CEO, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Gerard Robinson  
Virginia Secretary of Education

1:45 – 3:00 General Session

**SCHEV Recertification**

## Guest Speakers

### Gerard Robinson Secretary of Education



Mr. Robinson was the president of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO). BAEO is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to actively support parental choice to empower families and to increase quality educational options for Black children. Prior to his position at BAEO, Mr. Robinson served as a senior research associate for the School Choice Demonstration Project at the University of Arkansas from 2006 to 2007 and as a senior fellow at the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University from 2004 to 2006. As a senior fellow, he assisted in reform efforts related to Milwaukee's private and public school choice programs and provided testimony before a Wisconsin legislative hearing on "Closing the Achievement Gap."

Mr. Robinson's professional endeavors have included numerous initiatives involving urban school reform and policy development. As executive director of a nonprofit organization in New York City, he opened a charter school in New Jersey. He participated in the crafting of public policy through his fellowship with the California State Senate, as a resource person in the Virginia General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives, and as a legislative liaison for the superintendent of the District of Columbia Public Schools. Mr. Robinson also was an elementary school teacher in Los Angeles and a teacher in the Pre-College Academic Program at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey.

For the past several years, Mr. Robinson has given formal and informal presentations about education and public policy before audiences in the United States and abroad. Forums include: the John F. Kennedy School of Government; the NAACP; the Toussaint Institute; the Curry School of Education; UVA School of Law; the Brookings Institution; Teach for America; the Lexington Institute; the Commonwealth Foundation; the National Archives and Records Administration; the Virginia Public Policy Institute; the Close Up Foundation; Howard University School of Law; the Black Issues in Higher Education Conference; the Community Teachers Institute; the Harvard Graduate School of Education; the Stanford School of Business. Mr. Robinson also discussed the merits of the American public school choice movement at the Summer Institute for Educators held at Oxford University in England, and examined policy issues with university personnel at the Higher Education Institute held at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Other international travel includes the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Gambia, Germany, Haiti, Israel, and Senegal.

Mr. Robinson's publications include: "The Color of Success: Black Student Achievement in Public Charter Schools," *Issue Brief* for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (2008—coauthored with Edwin Chang); a biographical entry for Mayor Walter E. Washington and Drs. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. and Walter J. Leonard in the *African American National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2008); "More than Homework, a Snack, and Basketball: Afterschool Programs as an Oasis of Hope for Black Parents in Four Cities," prepared for the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (2007); and "Can the Spirit of Brown Survive in the Era of School Choice? A Legal and Policy Perspective," *Howard Law Journal*, volume 45, 281-336 (2002).

Mr. Robinson received a Master of Education degree from Harvard University, a Bachelor of Arts from Howard University, and an Associate of Arts from El Camino Community College. He is married and has three daughters.

**Michael Lambert, Executive Director,  
Distance Education and Training Council**

Michael P. Lambert, a native of Western Pennsylvania, has served as the Executive Director of the Distance Education and Training Council since 1992. He joined the DETC staff in 1972. Over the years, he has served on more than 600 accreditation review committees in eight countries. Mr. Lambert earned a BS degree in English/Education and an MA Degree in English Literature from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and an MBA Degree in Finance from George Mason University. He has also attended the International Summer School at the University of Cambridge in England. He was a lecturer in Communications at George Mason University. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve in the Quartermaster Corps as an officer, where he was responsible for distance study course development at the USA Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Virginia. Mr. Lambert has taught, written and lectured widely on distance education and accreditation since 1972, and serves on numerous advisory boards, including the CHEA Committee on Recognition, the CHEA International Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School, the ACE Commission on Lifelong Learning and the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, where he is the current Chair. His awards include the U.S. Army Commendation Medal, the DETC Distinguished Recognition Award, the DETC Distinguished Service Award, the IUP Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the European Association for Distance Learning's "Roll of Honour" for his lifetime contributions to the field.



**Dr. Barry Simmons  
Director of University Scholarships and Financial Aid  
Virginia Tech**



Dr. Barry W. Simmons, Sr., a native of Southside Virginia, graduated from Elon University. His master's and doctorate are from UNC Greensboro with studies in higher education and public policy. As Director of University Scholarships and Financial Aid at Virginia Tech, Simmons oversees \$262 million in assistance to more than 21,000 students and serves on the University Council on International Programs, Enrollment Management Committee, Undergraduate Admissions Advisory Group, the Computer Requirements Steering Committee, as an academic coach for the local chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and was a charter member of the Multicultural Affairs Committee.

Recognized as an advocate of access to post high school educational opportunities and educational diversity, Simmons began his term as national chair of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) in July 2009 and currently serves on the board of Project Discovery, a state-wide high school drop-out prevention program. Dr. Simmons was a member of the Virginia College Access Network Founding Steering Committee, served as its second president and continues to serve on the board of directors. He is a frequent speaker at state, regional, and national conferences, has co-authored several NASFAA Monographs and has published in the *Journal of Student Financial Aid*. He has served on the NASFAA Institutional Program Management, Research Association Governance and Membership, Diversity Committees and currently holds a seat on the Executive Committee of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' Commission on Access, diversity and Excellence. He serves as an institutional representative on the US Department of Education's FAFSA Design Team and in an advisory capacity to several Virginia state agencies.

**Albert C. Gray, Ph.D., CAE**  
**Executive Director, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools**



The ACICS Board of Directors appointed Dr. Albert C. Gray as Executive Director and CEO of ACICS in December 2008. Dr. Gray has more than 15 years experience directing accreditation, professional and technical membership programs; including most recently as the founding executive director and CEO of the Public Health Accreditation Board. He is a former CEO of the 50,000 member National Society of Professional Engineers, and has served in various management and consulting capacities with national engineering firms since 1972. Dr. Gray has been a leader in the design and implementation of a number of accreditation and certification programs including accreditation of drinking water providers, high risk waste managers, local and state public health departments, and higher education programs. He has been an adjunct professor of environmental engineering at Penn State University and sits on the Advisory Board at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Gray earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and holds a Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential by the American Society of Association Executives.

**Thompson Hanavan**  
**President and CEO, Professional Bartending School**

Tommy Hanavan began his career in hospitality innocently enough: as a way to pay his way through State University of New York without the need for student loans. What he ultimately found was much more. After graduating college he decided to continue in the food and beverage industry because he discovered something that most people only dream of: he found a career he loved that provided a generous and reliable income.

Over the years, Tommy has held virtually every position in the restaurant business from head bartender to general manager, staff trainer, and even international hospitality consultant. His status as one of only three Master Trainers in the entire country for the TAM<sup>®</sup> alcohol awareness program merely confirms his credentials and passion for this industry.

Tommy's career has taken him from Canada to South America, as far east as Europe and everywhere in-between; nevertheless, the highlight of his career is still ongoing and has been for the last eighteen years: orchestrating one of the finest training programs and the most successful job placement assistance programs of any bartending school in the country. To this day, he can still say he truly loves his job.

**Regina E. Welch**  
**Dean for Student Services, Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing**

Regina Welch has been at the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing for 8 years and has been the Dean for the past 5 years. She started as the director, Financial Aid, and eventually moved to Director, Institutional Research. She worked for 20 years in corporate business. After a lay off in 2000, Ms. Welch was able to pursue her passion of adult education.

The College has metamorphosed over the past 5 years and has transitioned from a diploma program to a baccalaureate nursing program. Ms. Welch has participated on teams transitioning the growth of the School to a College through the different stages of accreditation and licensing.

Ms. Welch has a BA in Business, a MS in Personnel and Human Resource Management and an Ed.D in Educational Leadership.