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Winners announced for the eighth annual SANsational Awards

The State Authorization Network (SAN), a division of WCET is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 State Authorization Network SANsational awards: Campbell University (NC), University of Cincinnati (OH), and Utah Tech University (UT).

Boulder, CO – The *State Authorization Network* (SAN) is pleased to announce the winners of the 8th annual SANsational Awards. These awards recognize outstanding efforts by SAN member institutions and organizations in developing a high-quality, comprehensive solution to a challenging state authorization issue. Works recognized by the SANsational Awards present solutions that meet the needs of regulators, the institution and, most especially, students. These efforts serve as models which can be adapted or replicated by others.

The 2022 SANsational Award winners are categorized into three areas: (1) Licensure Programs: Notifications and disclosures for professional licensure in each state; (2) Location: Identifying student location for regulatory compliance and reporting requirements and (3) Compliance Innovations: Institution policy, tools, compliance teams, or other inventive or novel compliance management process. This year's awards are in the Compliance Innovations category.

Compliance Innovations - Institution policy, tools, compliance teams or other inventive or novel compliance management process
Awarded to:
- **Campbell University (NC)**
  - Title - Utilizing Accreditation Documentation to Demonstrate Compliance with C-RAC Guidelines
- **University of Cincinnati (OH)**
  - Title - State Authorization Working Group (SAWG)
- **Utah Tech University**
  - Title - Implementing a professional licensure database for automatic individual disclosures

"The SANsational Awards recognize outstanding efforts and innovative solutions created by members of the State Authorization Network," said Cheryl Dowd, the Senior Director, State Authorization Network and WCET Policy Innovations. She continued: "The winners of this annual award display diligence and commitment to improving their institutional compliance functions to better serve their students. Each winner has approached their respective challenge in a methodical and practical manner, which lends their system and results to be easily adapted by other institutions. We're thrilled to acknowledge the

great work of these winners and to help elevate collaborative and creative approaches to what can often be a complex, yet critically important institutional responsibility."

We will deliver the awards directly to each SANsational awardee throughout Fall 2022 so that staff can celebrate with their institution peers. SAN will publish a video library containing recorded presentations with each winner describing their compliance challenge and winning solution by December 2022 for on demand viewing.

For more information and videos of our award winners, please visit:
https://wcetsan.wiche.edu/resources/sansational-awards

Additional Information on 2022 Award Winners

Campbell University (NC)
Awarded: Compliance Innovations - Institution policy, tools, compliance teams or other inventive or novel compliance management process

Title: Utilizing Accreditation Documentation to Demonstrate Compliance with C-RAC Guidelines

Campbell University is a private, non-profit, liberal arts institution located in Buies Creek, NC, which is about 35 miles south of the state capital in Raleigh. Campbell offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate/first professional degrees, including medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and law. While the Main Campus is situated in Buies Creek, Campbell also has offsite instructional locations serving Fort Bragg, Pope Army Airfield, and Camp Lejeune, in addition to our online presence.

This project stemmed from a need to more robustly demonstrate compliance with the C-RAC Guidelines, agreement to abide by which are a requirement for institutional participation in NC-SARA. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that there was much overlap between C-RAC Guidelines standards and SACSCOC accreditation standards. A crosswalk document was developed to explicitly show where the two sets of standards touched. In the relatively few instances where there was no direct touchpoint between the C-RAC Guidelines and SACSCOC standards, resources specific to the University were identified that would demonstrate compliance. For example, Institutional Effectiveness staff reached out to staff for Campbell Online, as needed. An (electronic) application evidence folder was developed. While the crosswalk points to relationships between the two sets of standards, the evidence folder contains the specific instances of documents that directly demonstrate compliance with the C-RAC Guidelines. These were the same documents that were submitted in support of the decennial accreditation reaffirmation to SACSCOC. That an evidence repository already existed to demonstrate compliance with accreditation standards greatly facilitated development of the same for the C-RAC Guidelines.

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University of Cincinnati (OH)
Awarded: Compliance Innovations - Institution policy, tools, compliance teams or other inventive or novel compliance management process

Title: State Authorization Working Group (SAWG)

UC's State Authorization compliance responsibility shifted to UC Online (UCO) in March 2018. Maintaining UC's State Authorization Compliance is an enormous undertaking and UC Online accepted this responsibility without dedicated staff.   Today it stands with two (2) UCO staff members who are responsible for this effort as a portion of their other responsibilities. It was essential to the success of our SARA compliance that we developed efficiencies and reached out to others for support. Over the last 3 years, we have established processes, policies, college guidelines, communication efforts, and most importantly we developed the State Authorization Working Group (SAWG) that has made us successful in achieving our overarching goals.

In July of 2020, we established the State Authorization Working Group (SAWG). This working group consists of a representative from each of UC's 13 colleges and the Institutional Research team. SAWG acts as the primary source where data and reporting information is validated and collected. Their primary responsibility is to support the institution and the compliance team by gathering needed reporting documentation for Out of State Learning Placements and keeping us up to date on Programs each college offers and if they lead to professional licensure whether UC meets, does not meet, or it has not been determined if it meets the state educational requirements. The SAWG liaison is also responsible for communicating any changes needed to help maintain the accuracy of our webpages. This group is instrumental in the university's ability to maintain compliance. In addition, their involvement helps ensure the accuracy of the data we report. The SARA compliance staff recognize that this can be a heavy lift every year, so they have worked to try to make the process easier and more efficient. If another institution wants to replicate this innovation, it begins with developing a network. The first step is to get upper leadership buy-in so that the people responsible for SARA tracking in each college are incentivized to support the project. It is important to make clear that many hands make light work; people are more willing to help when they know the effort is defined, limited, and shared. It is also important to make the benefits clear to the participants. They include:

1. A small central staff can support a large project
2. Responsibility is spread across units
3. Data integrity is ensured because the data is being pulled by individuals that know the programs and students

The SAWG can become a template for other institutions to streamline and make the SARA compliance needs more efficient.

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Utah Tech University (UT)
Awarded: Compliance Innovations - Institution policy, tools, compliance teams or other inventive or novel compliance management process

Title: Implementing a professional licensure database for automatic individual disclosures.

Utah Tech University is the only institution of higher learning in the U.S. that welcomes all students to experience the hands-on, career-preparing education that a polytechnic institution provides. The university's more than 200 programs offer transformative experiences across all disciplines – humanities, arts, education, health sciences, business and STEM – with the most affordable university tuition in Utah. Utah Tech students make, create and innovate in the classroom and online while gaining real-world active learning experiences through internships, clinical experiences, undergraduate research, industry partnerships and service learning.

The 2019 Federal Regulations (34 CFR §668.43 (c)) requires an institution to provide direct disclosure notifications to enrolled and prospective students if the program of study potentially leads to professional licensure. By not complying, institutions put their Title IV Higher Education Act eligibility and funding at risk. In the spring of 2021, Utah Tech was looking for a way to automate this process. Mark Adkins, Utah Tech State Authorization and Professional Licensure Coordinator, started working with various university departments to create a database that would automate the professional licensure disclosures via email. The database framework adopted by Utah Tech had previously been developed by Sherri Melton at Weber State University. Utah Tech leveraged the existing Ellucian Banner student information system to create a new professional licensure database table. The web-based interface to the database has three tabs: programs, directors and student email. The database is always "listening" and there are four triggers that cause an email to be automatically generated and sent to a student. The four triggers are: start of the semester (fall and spring), a student enters into a professional licensure program of study via Banner, a change in the student's location and a change in the determination status for their program of study and state. All emails generated are searchable in the archive created in the database. From start to finish, this project took nine months to complete. To date, 2,000+ emails have been automatically generated by the database to support the 35 professional licensure programs at Utah Tech.

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About WCET
WCET – the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies - is the leader in the practice, policy, & advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET is a member-driven, nonprofit which brings together colleges and universities, higher education organizations and companies to collectively improve the quality and reach of technology-enhanced learning programs. The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), WCET's parent organization, serves states,

students, and institutions throughout and beyond the American West, and is one of four U.S. regional interstate compacts.   WCET created the State Authorization Network in 2011.

Learn more: http://wcet.wiche.edu

About the State Authorization Network (SAN)
SAN is a membership organization serving more than 800 postsecondary institutions and agencies nationwide to collaboratively navigate regulatory compliance for out-of-state activities of postsecondary institutions. By empowering members to successfully resolve educational technology regulatory challenges, members improve postsecondary learner opportunities and protections. SAN serves its members by providing resources, analysis, and training as well as facilitating communication so that members can cooperate to identify common needs, track emerging policies and regulations, evaluate their efficacy, and share lessons learned.

Learn more**:** https://wcetSAN.wiche.edu