2024-2025 SAN Advisory Group Elections

Listed below are the names and responses of 11 compliance professionals and SAN colleagues who wish to serve on the SAN Advisory Group. The candidates will represent specified sectors or groups. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name. Please note the following:

- All SAN members are encouraged to review the nomination submissions below prior to voting
- Voting is intended for wcetMIX participants in the State Authorization Network Community
- We ask that the members who receive the notification, please vote only once
- Voting will take place via the survey link sent to the SAN Network Community starting August 5 and will close at 11:59 pm August 9, 2024 (Alaska Time)
- Questions may be sent to Kathryn Kerensky (kkkerensky@wiche.edu)

The SAN team thanks you in advance for your participation!
Category 1: 2-Year institution

Note: There are a total of 5 nominees in this category.
Candidate: Ryan Faulkner
Category: 2-Year institution
Institution: College of Eastern Idaho

Share your job title and briefly describe your role

I am the Dean of Online and have many responsibilities for our online/distance program fall under. Within these duties that fall solely under me are state authorization, NC-SARA membership and professional licensure.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?

I have already served on the Advisory Group and would like to continue the work we have been doing for WCET as a whole. In working with this group it allows me the ability to provide the small community college viewpoint for these major changes we face, as well as help others. Finally, being at a small and fairly underfunded rural college, being a part of such a group helps myself and other schools in my state stay ahead and on top of new federal regulations.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?

Number one on the list is working with SAN to better understand the new federal regulations and find ways to better provide materials to our membership base on what these laws are and how to abide by them. There is so much uncertainty and each of our institutions are dealing with different and unique ways to abide by the new rules. It will be important to have more conversations on what all this truly means, but also to develop new and helpful resources to teach others. I also find it a priority to find ways to simply stay connected across the country and be a support system for one another. I am sure many people dealing with these changes feel alone and possibly not supported by their institutional leadership and we can be a support system for them to lean on.
Candidate: Laurie McBride  
Category: 2-Year institution  
Institution: Salt Lake Community College

Share your job title and briefly describe your role  
Hello! My title is State Authorization Manager. I work at Salt Lake Community College in the eLearning Department. I've also worked as an academic advisor and in the graduation office. I've worked at two different community colleges in my career. I focus on the NC-SARA and federal and state compliance issues for distance education. I'm lucky to be a part of UT-SARA, a great team of higher education professionals also working on these topics here in Utah.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?  
I've worked in this policy area for about six years now. Community Colleges licensed professions are quite different from the universities. I've researched licensure requirements for the trades, for CNA, for Paralegal, for ASL/English Interpreter, and other programs not typical at your average four-year college. Also, because Community Colleges tend to mostly have students living in the home state, our process for tracking out-of-state enrollments is very hands-on and manual. I'd love to see more collaboration among the community college SAN members.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?  
1. A community college working group that meets on occasion to discuss our unique issues--finding licensure resources for unique programs, crafting a notification process that works with the fast semester-by-semester application process CC's have, and communicating with administrators about why this is important when we have only a small population of out-of-state students.

2. Chevron Deference. It sounds like as compliance officers we'll need to start keeping an eye on lawsuits and case law. I'd love insight from SAN about working in this new policy environment.
Candidate: Cynthia Pascal  
Category: 2-Year institution  
Institution: Northern Virginia Community College

Share your job title and briefly describe your role
Dr. Cynthia Pascal is the Associate Vice President of eLearning at Northern Virginia Community College’s online division, overseeing Faculty Services, Instructional Design, Student Services, and Educational Technology Support Services for over 550 faculty and 29,000 asynchronous students.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?
As a member of the Virginia Community College System, I have seen how challenging it is for decentralized colleges to receive, understand, and implement State Authorization guidance. My experience in navigating these complexities has equipped me with insights into the common obstacles faced by two-year institutions and potential strategies to overcome them. I bring a collaborative and solutions-oriented perspective, committed to enhancing communication and clarity across colleges. My goal is to contribute to the SAN Advisory Group by advocating for streamlined processes and supporting institutions in achieving compliance more efficiently.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?
I believe SAN’s most important projects and priorities should include advocating for distance learners and institutions in relation to proposed federal guidelines and rulemaking. The new regulations disproportionately impact smaller community colleges that lack access to the same resources as larger institutions. Addressing this disparity is crucial to ensure equitable access to education for all students, regardless of the size or funding of their institution.

SAN should prioritize developing comprehensive resources and support systems to help institutions, regardless of size, navigate these changes effectively.
Candidate: Millie Rodriguez  
Category: 2-Year institution  
Institution: Community College of Allegheny County

Share your job title and briefly describe your role  
Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC), Allegheny County, PA  
Academic Dean, The Virtual Campus 2018 to Present

Grow online programs, increasing student enrollment term of term to 10K, with headcount at 5200 students. Support and supervise virtual campus team, developing and implementing strategic initiatives designed to improve academic, enrollment, and service experience of online students. Drive development and implementation of robust online training program for students and faculty, expanding online programs and services and championing digital learning initiatives and open educational resources (OERs). Ensure compliance with all national and state accreditation regulations; established SARA membership. Oversee management of all necessary student services and operations, including management of student records, financial aid, enrollment process, course scheduling, placement testing, and DEI. Manage workload and conduct performance reviews of personnel assigned to department, chairing each committee that hired three of five current academic deans. Develop and monitor division budget.

- Conducted marketing feasibility studies to determine overall program health, standardizing online learning management system (LMS) procedures across disciplines and courses.
- Oversee training and course reporting for all online courses.
- Launched and grew online program, generating $35M in tuition revenue since 2019.
- Led process improvements to scheduling operations, increasing seat count from 16.9 students/section in Fall 2018 to 22 students/section in Fall 2023
- Designed, developed, and implemented online course rubric to ensure consistent, quality course development and delivery.
- Creating AI “Hub” to address the impact of generative AI for students and faculty at CCAC.
- Secured BYN Mellon Grant for $50K to support Quality Matters Training.
- Negotiated more than $2M in multi-year contracts, maximizing CaresAct funding as appropriate.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?

Over 20 years of success driving online educational program design, development, and operations allows for a perspective that brings both depth and breath to the advisory group. I have both 4 year and 2 year institutional experience specific to online learning and online regulations. Here are some additional highlights:

Creative higher-education leader with proven track record in online learning, learning and organizational leadership development, managing academic affairs, enrollment management, data analysis and reporting, scheduling, assessment and research, and course design and development.
Strategic planner recognized for producing national customer-service rankings. Equally capable of building and managing high-performing work teams or working independently to enhance organizational performance, stimulate transformational change, and boost productivity.

Effective use of successful marketing techniques to attract and retain adult and non-traditional students while retaining high quality academic programs. Personal and professional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism.

Engaging communicator, able to forge solid relationships with key internal and external stakeholders and build consensus across multiple organizational levels.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?
Understanding, communicating, and operationalizing federal regulatory requirements specific to distance education.

I have particular interest in issues related to AI.
**Candidate:** Kaylah Zelig  
**Category:** 2-Year institution  
**Institution:** Community College of Denver

**Share your job title and briefly describe your role**
Dean of Instruction. My portfolio includes HLC, federal, and state compliance; Concurrent Enrollment; Testing and Prior Learning Assessment Center; Tutoring and Student Support Center.

**Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?**
Institutions of higher learning have been under increasing regulatory requirements for over a decade now, and it is becoming difficult to manage and keep up, especially for institutions without the financial ability to hire staff dedicated solely to regulatory upkeep. I would like to join the advisory group to develop clear guidance, and toolkits, for colleges to alleviate some of this burden.

**What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?**
Toolkits - some clear best practice approaches to remain compliant with suggested language and how-tos for research and updating.
Category 2: Independent institution with an FTE greater than 2,500

Note: There are a total of 4 nominees in this category.
Candidate: Kelly Evans-Wilson  
Category: Independent institution with an FTE greater than 2,500  
Institution: Franklin University

Share your job title and briefly describe your role
Executive Director Accreditation and Authorization - Provide institutional leadership to ensure that all academic offerings are held to rigorous standards set by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). Coordinate processes of accreditation for new and existing programs, including specialized accreditors CAEP, CCNE, CAHIIM, and IACBE. Lead team that is responsible for applications and other documents required for authorization/licensure in U.S. states & territories, and foreign countries as applicable based on University operations and authorization/licensure regulations.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?
Joining the SAN Advisory Group presents a unique opportunity to influence the future of higher education compliance. My insight and expertise would directly contribute to shaping strategies that help educational institutions meet regulatory standards, ultimately enhancing the quality and accessibility of education for students nationwide. Serving on the advisory board offers professional growth and the opportunity to be at the forefront of educational innovation.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?
SAN plays an integral role in supporting institutions in navigating the complexities of compliance. I would recommend that SAN continue to leverage various modalities for trainings and support and to provide resources that can be easily shared with colleagues at various leadership levels. In this evolving regulatory environment, the collaborative support of the SAN network will be critical to institutions ensuring that students receive a high-quality education regardless of their geographical location.
Candidate: Bill Hall
Category: Independent institution with an FTE greater than 2,500
Institution: Campbell University

Share your job title and briefly describe your role
Director of Institutional Research and State Authorization

As Director of Institutional Research, I respond to select IPEDS surveys, other external surveys (e.g., US News), compile annual report data, compile program review data, author quantitative empirical analyses, advise on quantitative and qualitative data and data collection methodologies, as well as respond to ad hoc data requests. As Director of State Authorization, I am charged with ensuring that Campbell is compliant with both NC-SARA policy, as well as federal and state regulations concerning distance education and professional licensure activity. This responsibility encompasses not only the entire University, but also focuses on our distance education programs, as well as our professional licensure programs.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?
I have served in my current position for over seven years, growing into my compliance role, especially while Federal Regulations have shifted over the past several years and NC-SARA policy has been refined and updated. I see joining the SAN Advisory Group as both an opportunity to share my experience, but also to learn from other State Authorization colleagues in order to expand my knowledge base. In my role, I would serve as an advocate for small-to-medium-sized independent institutions, where compliance is often squarely placed on the shoulders of one person to manage on behalf of the entire institution.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?
I see two priorities for SAN going forward:

1. Continuing to provide timely and expertly curated guidance and recommendations, particularly in light of an anticipated state of flux in regulatory activity at the Federal, if not state, level.
2. Continuing to provide easily accessible resources for persons new to state authorization compliance, as well as for individuals in one-person compliance offices.
Candidate: Jennifer Lech  
Category: Independent institution with an FTE greater than 2,500  
Institution: Grand Canyon University

Share your job title and briefly describe your role  
Vice Provost- Responsible for state compliance (including professional licensure), accreditation, regulatory compliance for academics since 2010.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?  
I think I have a lot of wisdom in state compliance that I can share with others and help advocate for institutions in actually helping students. The institution perspective is often lost, as ED seems to ignore the application of state compliance. Schools cannot replicate each other’s disclosures, so it’s more important that they understand the regs and the "how" to meet them.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?  
The new regulation implementation and robust systems to meet them.
Candidate: Will Miller
Category: Independent institution with an FTE greater than 2,500
Institution: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Share your job title and briefly describe your role
I serve as Associate Vice President for Continuous Improvement and Institutional Performance at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In this role, I am our SACSCOC Liaison, oversee academic and administrative assessment and program reviews, work with programs on all of our specialized accreditations (AABI, AACSB, ABET, ACBSP, RAeS, etc.), and lead our state authorization efforts. The role facilitates continuous improvement and quality through systematic, mission-driven, and data-informed planning and evaluation processes. The role involves ensuring organizational excellence and equitable achievement of student learning within a culture of data-informed decision-making.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?
I am keen to join the SAN Advisory Group to leverage my extensive experience in compliance and continuous improvement across Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s complex organizational structure. With two residential campuses, domestic and international online programs, and authorized in-person sites in 28 states, 8 countries, and 1 U.S. territory, our operations are diverse and multifaceted. Being part of this advisory group will enable me to contribute to shaping effective compliance strategies and addressing emerging regulatory issues, enhancing the quality and reach of our out-of-state educational activities. My background in political science and lobbying also will prove to be beneficial to the group given the landscape for the next few years.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?
Going forward, SAN should prioritize navigating political uncertainties, especially with a potential change in administration that may bring vastly different views on the future of higher education. Ensuring regulatory compliance amidst shifting policies is crucial. Additionally, SAN should enhance collaboration among members by fostering a network that shares best practices and develops agile compliance strategies tailored to various regulatory changes. Investing in robust training and resources will support members in proactively adapting to new regulatory landscapes, ensuring sustained compliance and institutional success.
Category 3: Association/System affiliate/coordination of a group

Note: There are a total of 2 nominees in this category.
Candidate: Michael Jolley  
Category: Association/System affiliate/coordinator of a group  
Institution: University of Nebraska System

**Share your job title and briefly describe your role**  
I'm the Associate Director for Compliance and Operations serving under the Provost’s office for the University of Nebraska system. As part of the Executive Vice President and Provost’s team, I provide leadership and support for digital education, regulatory compliance, strategic analysis, and reporting across the University system working collaboratively with system campuses. I hold a PhD in Educational Studies and a Master of Arts in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of San Diego. My research focuses on Community College policy and administration, exploring how higher education institutions assess the implementation of technology solutions. I participate in several national organizations including the State Authorization Network’s Special Interest Team for Professional Licensure, the SAN Advisory Committee, and the WCET System & Consortia Group 2023.

**Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?**  
As a member of the SAN Advisory Group for the past two years, participation in the group has solidified the importance of collaboration and sharing between varied institutions in addressing SAN concerns. SAN is an excellent resource for all institutions grappling with state authorization issues and is well-positioned to address potential changes in the state authorization landscape. In my current role, I aid campus personnel in navigating compliance requirements and have a solid record of encouraging collaboration and producing results. I wish to serve the SAN community, sharing and learning with others.

**What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?**  
As the tumult of the last year continues, I believe SAN is poised to address a variety of issues related to state authorization, specifically 1) potential changes to state reciprocity and SARA, 2) accreditation and higher education, 3) distance education, and 4) professional licensure. Additional issues such as international distance education regulations and external learning placements (internships, practicums, clinical rotations, field experiences, etc.) should also be addressed.
Candidate: Krista LeBrun
Category: Association/System affiliate/coordinator of a group
Institution: Mississippi Community College Board

Share your job title and briefly describe your role
I am the Assistant Executive Director for eLearning & Instructional Technology. In this role, I serve as a liaison for the community colleges, managing consortium purchasing while overseeing a support team. My responsibilities evolved as I navigated SARA membership through the eLearning divisions at the colleges. This role naturally expanded to encompass compliance management, leading to our membership in SAN (State Authorization Network). Today, compliance is a fundamental aspect of my daily activities, ensuring that our institutions adhere to regulatory standards while fostering a supportive and innovative online learning environment.

Please explain briefly (in 3-4 sentences) why you would like to join the SAN Advisory Group. What perspective would you bring to the team?
I would like to join the SAN Advisory Group due to my growing interest in regulations and compliance, and their impact on distance education. During my career, I have served in all facets of distance education, and I have witnessed firsthand the importance of regulations in ensuring quality and accessibility in online learning. Over the past few years, SAN has been instrumental in supporting my efforts to aid Mississippi's community colleges, and I would like to contribute to its future success by sharing my insights and experiences. My background allows me to bring a practical and strategic perspective to the team, enhancing our collective ability to navigate the regulatory landscape.

What projects and/or priorities do you deem to most important for SAN going forward?
I believe that focusing on accessibility, engagement, and interaction should be top priorities for SAN moving forward. These areas not only align with current trends within SAN but are also crucial for meeting regulatory requirements and ensuring inclusive, high-quality educational experiences. In addition to continuing to provide clarification and support in layman's terms for existing and incoming federal regulations, I would like to aid SAN in finding new strategies to educate about the regulatory landscape without overwhelming the end user. I am always seeking methods to enhance understanding, particularly as regulations often appear siloed, as seen with professional licensure and student location issues. By aligning these priorities with ongoing regulatory discussions, we can better support institutions in navigating compliance while enhancing the effectiveness and reach of distance education.