Update notes for
Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3), fourth edition
May 2017

At the COA Spring Meeting (April 20-21, 2017), the Committee on Accreditation (COA) approved the following three policy adjustments to *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3)*, fourth edition.

- **Section I.15 Accreditation decisions**: Revised to include "any standard on which a program has follow-up reporting is made public by the Office for Accreditation as a part of the usual means (e.g., press release, Accreditation Decisions and Actions Taken reports, and *Prism*), effective beginning with decisions in January 2018."
    - o Rationale: For fuller public disclosure on COA decision making in response to:
        - ▪ Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) standard 12B: Demonstrates Accountability
        - ▪ ALA Task Force on Accreditation Communication and Process recommendation 16: "Make accreditation decisions and documentation publicly available."

- **Section II.7.4 Examples of evidence that might be used to indicate compliance with the *2015 Standards for Accreditation***: Revised the bullet under "I. Systematic Planning" from, "Examples of how data are used in decision making to improve the program" to "Examples of how data are used in decision-making to improve the program, including examples for any specialized concentrations that are part of the ALA-accredited program (Standards I.2.3), effective beginning with program reviews with visits in fall 2018.
        - o Rationale: To more fully reflect the requirement of Standard I.2 of the *2015 Standards for Accreditation*.

- **Section II.11 Meeting with the Committee on Accreditation (COA) to close the comprehensive review**: Revised to yield the two minutes of "Opening remarks by the ERP Chair" to the program for any remarks in closing. Effective beginning with reviews with visits in spring 2017 for meeting with COA at the 2017 Annual Conference.
    - o Rationale: To provide programs an opportunity for summary comment to more fully inform the accreditation decision.