



## Media Announcement

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## **CCE Agrees to Serious Discussions On Governance Reform**

**Falls Church, Virginia, November 15, 2013:** Senior leaders of the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) have extended a public offer to the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) and other Summit Roundtable members to engage in detailed talks on the reform of the CCE's governance structure in response to ongoing expressions of concern by ICA and other organizations over issues of fairness and representation in the current CCE structure. This offer was first extended at a meeting of the Chiropractic Summit Roundtable in October in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Chiropractic Summit Roundtable is a group that consists of the presidents or their designees from:

- The Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB)
- The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE)
- The International Chiropractors Association (ICA)
- The Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC)
- The Congress of Chiropractic State Associations (COCSA)
- The American Chiropractic Association (ACA)
- The Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE)

The purpose of this smaller working group is to provide a forum to address potentially divisive and controversial issues outside the 40-plus member organization Summit general meetings.

ICA President Dr. Michael S. McLean and ICA representative to the Summit Steering Committee Dr. Stephen P. Welsh represented ICA at the Round Table recently convened in Atlanta, Georgia. At that meeting, grave concern was expressed not only by the CCE representatives but also other organizations since the temporary re-recognition that was provided by the US Department of Education (USDE) two years ago is up for further consideration in 2013 and that the options for the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) to further extend such probation were limited. Thus, there was concern that the NACIQI Committee vote scheduled for Washington DC this coming December was likely to be a straight up or down vote.

"CCE representatives at the recent Atlanta meeting offered to enter into discussions on ICA's governance concerns, with the participation of the member organizations of the Round Table." said Dr. McLean. "This offer was accepted at the Summit meeting in Seattle, on November 7, 2013, with numerous Summit organizations publicly voicing their support for such a dialogue. On the basis of this offer, ICA has agreed to enter into reform discussions with the goal being an electoral process more representative of the mainstream of chiropractic."

ICA is also aware of a greater context in which the status of the CCE with the federal government should be considered. The current national administration is not one which has demonstrated any significant level of support for the chiropractic profession. For example, chiropractic is not included as an essential benefit in the health care reform implementation process. ICA is deeply conscious of the reality that chiropractic's antagonists have set the removal of chiropractic's federal accreditation recognition as a top goal and that this upcoming hearing and USDE committee vote are obvious points of attack in this effort.

As a result, the ICA has officially agreed to take the position in its oral testimony at the upcoming hearings on the re-recognition of the CCE before the USDE's NACIQI Committee that, while the ICA continues to have concerns over the fairness and inclusiveness of the governance process of the CCE, as expressed and documented in its written submission, ICA supports re-recognition, as the CCE has publically indicated that they are willing to work through the organizations of the Summit Round Table to study and address issues of governance.

ICA takes its responsibilities to the chiropractic profession very seriously and we understand how profoundly education supports and promotes the unique science and practice of chiropractic. ICA still has other concerns with CCE Standards, notably the need to have the term "Subluxation" stand alone and a stronger "drug-free" statement. ICA's goal has always been a strong, centralized, objective, chiropractic-centered and responsible accrediting agency for chiropractic colleges, an agency that commands the respect and support of a united chiropractic profession. CCE stands today at the center of ongoing controversies, ignited by decisions and policies that some feel have separated the chiropractic educational process from the basic tenets of chiropractic. ICA remains committed to securing fundamental reforms within the CCE and trusts that the CCE pledge of dialogue on reforming its governing structure and processes is an effort in good faith.

ICA will keep its membership and the profession at large fully informed of all aspects of this important undertaking with the CCE.

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