

## ACHENA Community Forum # 2: Process and Costs for Earning Accreditation

1. What is the overall process for ACHENA review of curriculum and earning accreditation? How long will it take?
2. If I were to get started, what are the first steps?
3. Will the process be overwhelming? Will it take me away from what I really want to be doing – teaching homeopathy?
4. Would help be available through the process?
5. What are the costs associated with accreditation?
6. Will the costs be prohibitive? Can a small school afford it?
7. What would the payback for earning accreditation be?
8. Is it going to be worth it in the long run?

1

## Brief Review of Meeting #1

- ✓ What is ACHENA?
- ✓ Overall benefit of accreditation
- ✓ Value of academic freedom – your ability to teach in a manner that flows from your school's unique values
- ✓ ACHENA's educational standards are well lined up with CHC requirements

2

## Core Principles of Accreditation

- **Community-Accepted Standards:** Standards are established with community input via inclusive public comment process
- **Self Study:** School communities engage in a process of self-study to promote growth based on their mission and values
- **Documentation of Policy and Procedure:** Documented policies and procedures ensure that students, faculty and administrators fully understand the scope of their rights and responsibilities and how they will work together
- **Peer Review:** The peer review site visit provides schools an opportunity to discuss their program with other experienced homeopathic educators and administrators of schools

3



## How long would it take for a school to become accredited?

- Each of the two phases (eligibility and candidacy) would take about 12-14 months
- Schools with curriculum consistent with CHC educational requirements should comfortably be able to achieve full accreditation within 3 years
- ACHENA would allow an applicant up to five years to complete the process
- Once accredited, reaccreditation is a one step process (no eligibility phase)

Let's review the Eligibility standards

## What are the costs of accreditation?

### General Costs of Business

- Investment associated with developing and maintaining written policies and procedures (**Can schools work together to do this efficiently?**)
- Cost of doing business in a manner that is credible to the public

### Costs Related to ACHENA

- Cost of preparing for and conducting a self-study
- Cost associated with hosting a peer review site visit (**Can educators work together to reduce travel costs?**)
- Fees due to ACHENA (which represent only a modest cost)

## Costs related to ACHENA

- **Initial Application Fee:** \$600 – reduced to \$300 through 2/28/14
- **Accreditation workshop fee:** \$350, waived through 2/28/14
- **Eligibility Site Visit:** \$1,000 + site visitor travel – proposed to be eliminated
- **Candidacy Application Fee:** \$600
- **Accreditation Site Visit:** \$1,000 + site visitor travel
- **Annual Dues:** \$500 for schools with gross annual revenue less than \$100,000
- **TOTAL for 5 years:** \$2,400 plus site visitor travel for schools applying before 2/28/14

“I heard that ACHENA is very rigid...”

- ACHENA is committed to ongoing dialogue with schools and other stakeholders
- ACHENA is seeking additional commissioners from among NANHE membership
- ACHENA has a valid public comment policy that is used to guide standards and policies
- ACHENA is eager to work together with schools and others in the homeopathic community to improve our processes