

SREB

Educational Technology Cooperative

2017 Spring Webinar Series

**The Continuing Evolution of SARA
and SECRRA Update**

Presenter: Mary Larson

Moderator: Wanda Barker



SARA

State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreement for
Distance Education

**The Continuing
Evolution of SARA
and SECRRRA Update
ETC 2017 Spring Webinar**



National Council
for State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements

*A voluntary, regional approach
to state oversight of distance education*

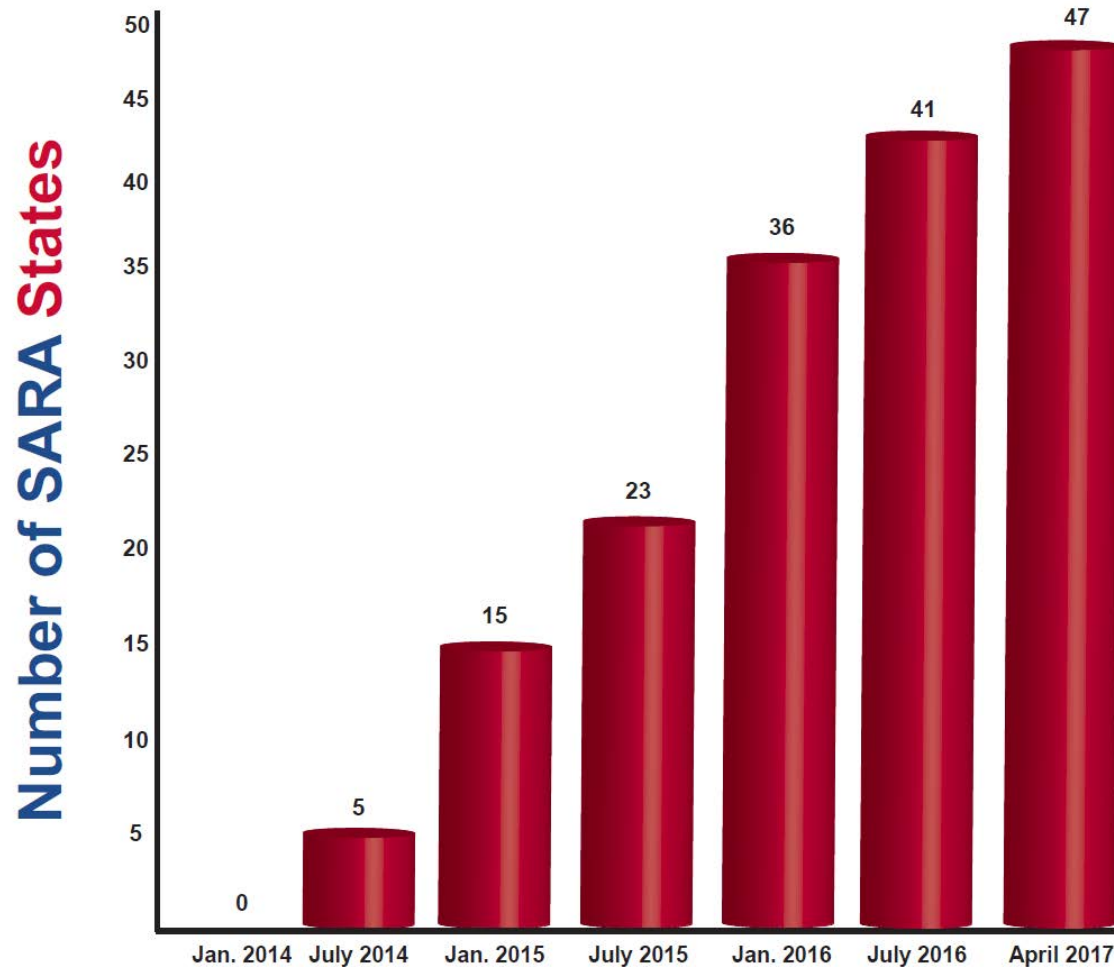
Presenters:



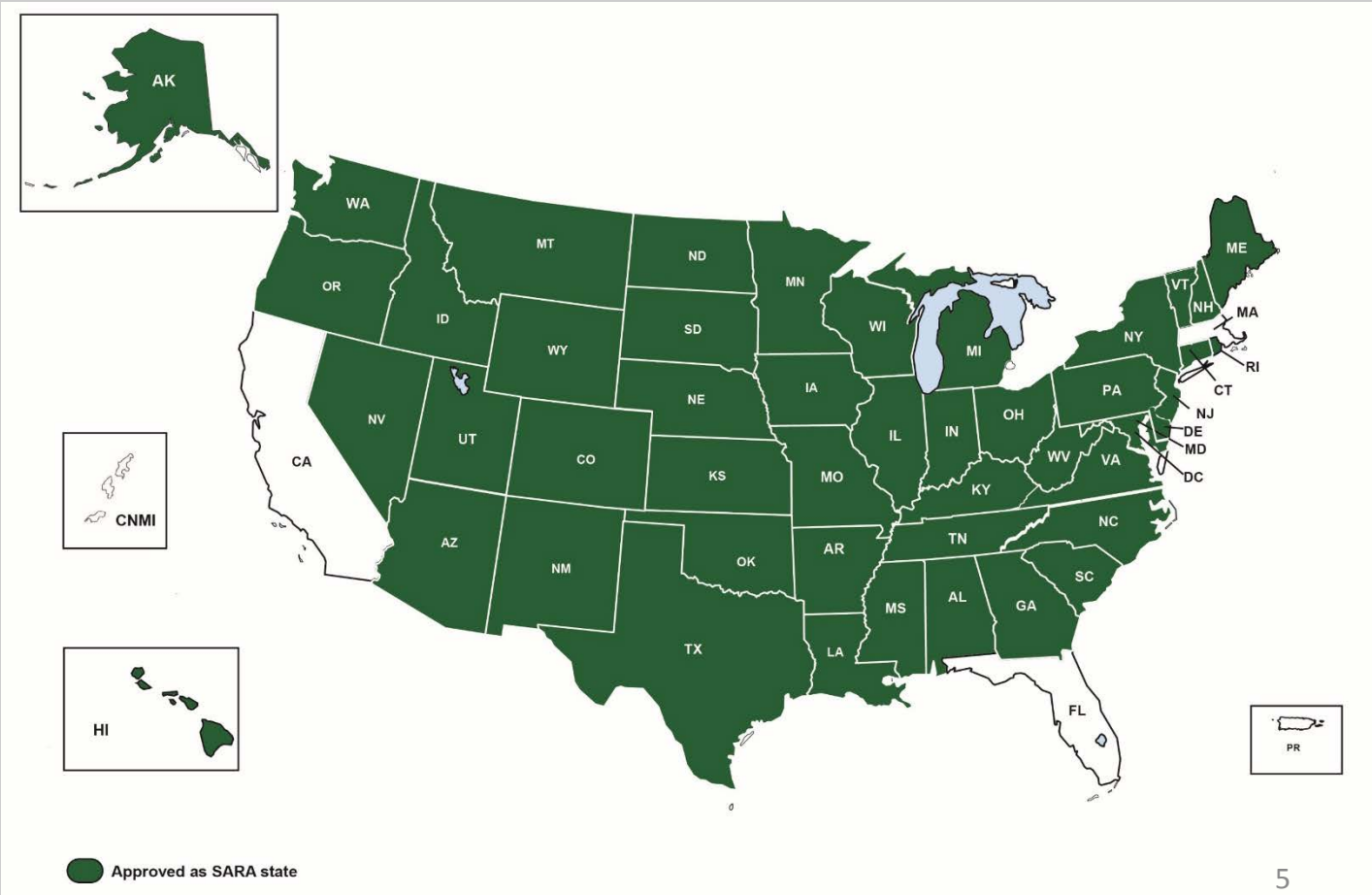
Mary Larson
Director
Student Access Programs
and Services, SREB



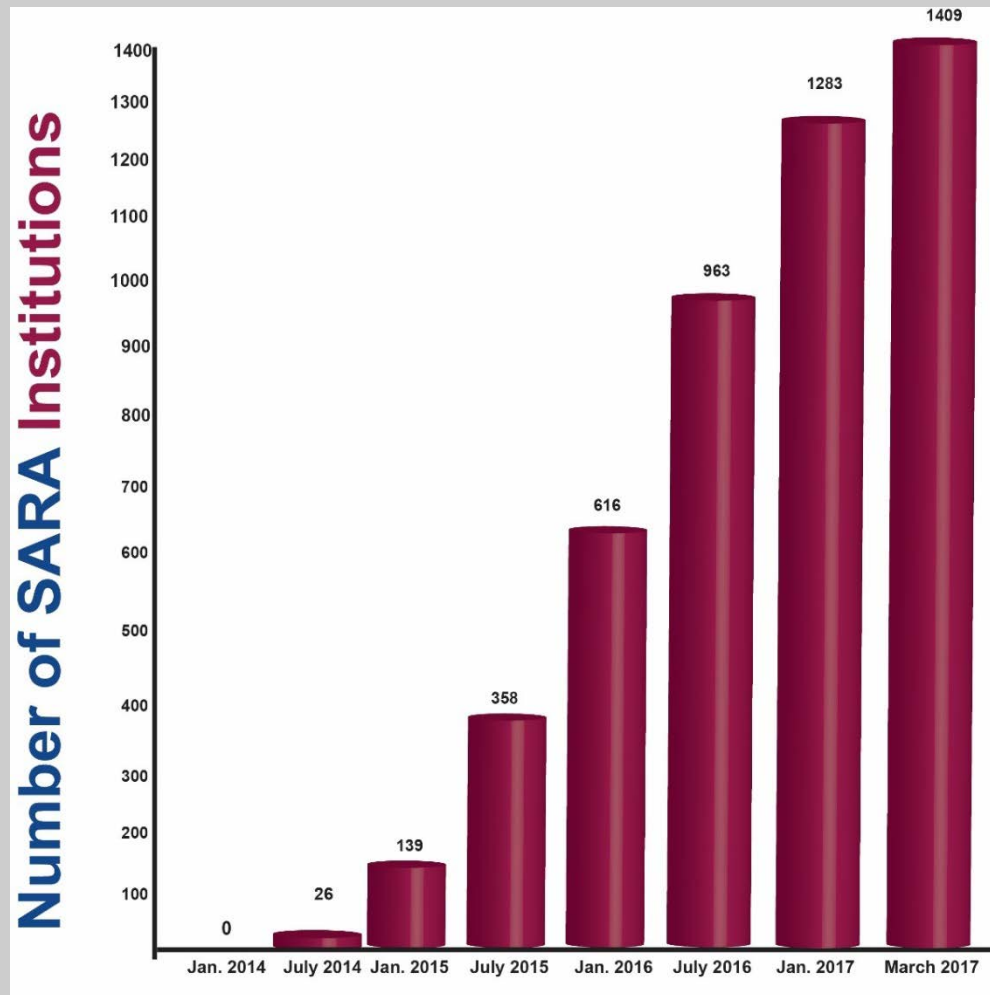
SARA Member States



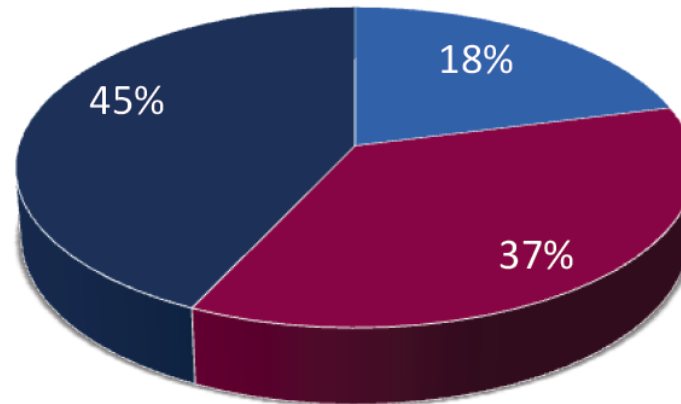
The Current SARA Landscape






Participating Institutions



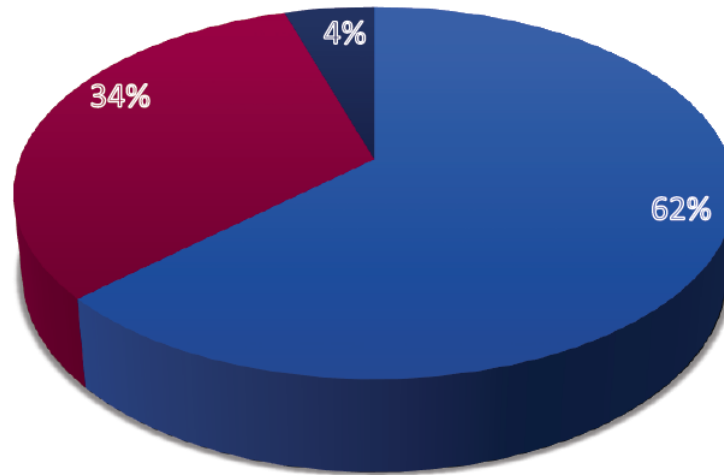
Participating Institutions by Size



Institutions by **SIZE**

-  Fewer than 2,500 FTE
-  2,500 - 9,999 FTE
-  Greater than 10,000 FTE

Participating Institutions by Sector



Institutions by **SECTOR**

-  Public
-  Private/Non-Profit
-  Independent/ For-Profit
-  Tribal

As of April 14, 2017

Business/Financial Status of the SARA Initiative



- NC-SARA is now a free-standing 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, with fully separate business functions
- SARA work by all SARA partners (NC-SARA, MHEC, NEBHE, SREB and WICHE) is now fully dependent on fee revenue
- Current and projected revenues are sufficient to support SARA
- Consequently, NC-SARA has determined to keep fees at current levels through June, 2018

SARA Goals: How are we doing?



SARA establishes a **state-level reciprocity process** that is making state authorization:

- **more efficient, effective, and uniform** in regard to necessary and reasonable standards of practice that could span states;
- **more effective** in dealing with quality and integrity issues that have arisen in some online/distance education offerings; and
- **less costly** for states and institutions and, thereby, the students they serve.

Remember: SARA reconciles different interests



- Institutions' goals
- Regulators' concerns
- Others
 - Accreditors
 - Regional compacts
 - National Commission
 - US Department of Education

“Past-the-Easy-Stuff” Challenges



- Reconciling SARA’s physical presence provisions with changing institutional practices – a never-ending issue
 - Experiential learning and physical presence
 - Why deal with experiential education at all?
 - Beneficial for students
 - Many states regulate it
 - Required for some degree programs (allied health, etc.)
- Programs intended to lead to licensure

“Past-the-Easy-Stuff” Challenges Continued



- Complaint resolution (SARA requirements vs actual state practice)
- USED’s 12/2016 rules and their intent regarding their definition of “state authorization reciprocity agreement”
- Yes, SECRRA is indeed going away! (June 30, 2017)
- Communications
- California, Florida and Massachusetts
- Some continued objections to SARA’s allowing for-profit institutions to participate

What's Ahead for SARA?



- Add additional states and institutions
- Enrollment reporting and publication:
 - SARA institutions reported their out-of-state enrollments in May, 2016; results published in September;
 - Spring 2017 reporting set for May 22-June 14
- Under consideration
 - Student-focused information and assistance
 - Voluntary database of distance ed programs offered by SARA institutions

SREB's Electronic Campus



- Launched in 1998 with 100 courses
- More than **4,500** programs
- Institutions are regionally accredited not-for-profit and chartered in a SREB
- State review and approval
- Institutions meet *Principles of Good Practice and Common Standards*

SREB's Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRA)



- All 16 SREB state participate in SECRRA
- Voluntary for states and institutions
- Institutions participate only if state joins
- Limited to for-credit online courses and programs *activated* on the Electronic Campus
- SECRRA was the only regional reciprocity agreement in the nation until 2014



SECRRA Phase Out



SECRRA dissolves June 30, 2017

Courses students complete by June 30, 2017, will benefit from the SECRRA.

Courses students begin after July 1, 2017, are not covered by SECRRA.

Reciprocity is only for institutions participating in SARA.

Academic Common Market online programs will be affected.

SARA institutions only

SARA states only



Additional Resources



- SREB SARA
www.sreb.org/SARA
- NC-SARA – Manual Available
www.nc-sara.org
- State Authorization
<http://wcet.wiche.edu/initiatives/state-authorization-network>
- State contacts
<http://sheeo.org/projects/state-authorization-postsecondary-education>

Questions?



- 1) SARA State Portal Entity
<http://www.nc-sara.org>
- 2) Regional Director
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- 3) NC-SARA
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Upcoming Webinars

Accelerating Military/Veteran Degree and Certification Completion

May 4, 2017 11 a.m. EDT

URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7665860321970591745>

Webinar ID: 523-338-419

Expanding Accessibility to Digital Spaces Through Improved Policy and Practice

May 25, 2017 2 p.m. EDT

URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/50492154901024257>

Webinar ID: 377-863-147