

U.S. Higher Education Accreditation Old and New: The Emergence of a New Paradigm

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Abstract

Throughout the world a paradigm shift is taking place within higher education and in the relationship between higher education institutions (HEIs) and their quality assurance bodies. Viewed by some as a fundamental paradigm shift in higher education, it is created out of a fundamentally new emphasis on student learning, its assessment and measurement. This paper examines the nature of this paradigm shift from the perspective of U.S. higher education accreditation, in specific the efforts of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Senior Commission to develop a new model of accreditation to which its member institutions can become fully committed.

Keyword: American Higher Education Accreditation; Educational Effectiveness; Higher Education Reform; Higher Education Finance; New Accreditation Paradigms; U.S. Department of Education; Western Association of Schools and Colleges; Senior Commission

