

Academic and Professional Qualifications of the DETC STAFF

Michael P. Lambert, Executive Director (1972 - Present)

Michael P. Lambert, a native of Western Pennsylvania, has served as the Executive Director of the Distance Education and Training Council since 1992. He joined the DETC staff in 1972. Over the years he has served on more than 600 accreditation review committees in eight countries. Mr. Lambert earned a BS degree in English/Education and an MA Degree in English Literature from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and an MBA Degree in Finance from George Mason University. He has also attended the International Summer School at the University of Cambridge in England. He was a lecturer in Communications at George Mason University. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve in the Quartermaster Corps as an officer, where he was responsible for distance study course development at the USA Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Virginia. Mr. Lambert has taught, written and lectured widely on distance education and accreditation since 1972, and serves on numerous advisory boards, including the CHEA Committee on Recognition, the CHEA International Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School, the ACE Commission on Lifelong Learning and the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, where he is the current Chair. His awards include the U.S. Army Commendation Medal, the DETC Distinguished Recognition Award, the DETC Distinguished Service Award, the IUP Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the European Association for Distance Learning's "Roll of Honour" for his lifetime contributions to the field.

Sally R. Welch, Associate Director (1974 - Present)

Ms. Sally R. Welch is the Associate Director of DETC. Ms. Welch joined the DETC in 1974 as the Assistant to the Accrediting Program Coordinator. She became Director of Publications in 1976, in 1992 she was appointed Assistant Director, and in 2007 she was named Associate Director. Having worked in the field of distance education for more than 37 years, she has authored, coauthored, and edited numerous publications on distance education. She has given presentations on distance education before legislative committees, government agencies, other organizations and associations throughout the United States, including DETC conferences, workshops, and seminars. She has served on more than 150 on-site accrediting examinations in the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Japan. She received the DETC's "Distinguished Recognition Award" in 1984 and 2004. Ms. Welch earned a B.A. degree from the University of Maryland and a M.A. degree from the University of Baltimore.

Nan Bayster Ridgeway, Director of Accreditation (2005 – Present)

Mrs. Nan Ridgeway joined the Distance Education and Training Council as the Director of Accreditation in August of 2005. As Director of Accreditation, Mrs. Ridgeway guides institutions through the process of initial and re-accreditation. She works to assure institutional compliance with the Commission's published educational and ethical business standards. Mrs. Ridgeway coordinates the work of hundreds of volunteer evaluators who assist the Commission in verifying the standards. Prior to joining the DETC, Mrs. Ridgeway served as an Accreditation Associate for the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). She earned a B.S. in Family Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is currently enrolled in a Master of Business Administration program at Strayer University.

Lissette D. Hubbard, Accreditation Associate (2007 - Present)

Ms. Hubbard joined DETC in May 2007 and is dedicated to assisting the Director of Accreditation with the day-to-day coordination of accrediting activities and the maintenance of all Commission records. Before joining DETC, Ms. Hubbard was a Field Director for Informa Research Services and a Researcher for International Quality and Productivity Center in New York City. She has Bachelors of Business Administration from Bernard Baruch College, CUNY, in New York.

Robert Chalifoux, Director of Media and Events (2005 – Present)

Mr. Chalifoux, an Ohio native, joined DETC in September 2005 as the Information Specialist. He was promoted to Director of Media and Events in August 2006. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism in 2004 with a 3.8 GPA from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He also received a Bachelor of Arts in French. Prior to joining DETC, Mr. Chalifoux worked as an Assistant Editor with PR Newswire in Washington, D.C. He also worked as a Dow Jones Copy Editing Intern for the *Belleville News-Democrat* in Belleville, IL. Mr. Chalifoux currently is preparing to take the Convention Industry Council's Certified Meeting Professional exam to earn his CMP.

Brianna L. Bates, Information and Accounts Specialist (2009-Present)

Brianna L. Bates, a native of upstate New York, has served as the Information and Accounts Specialist of the Distance Education and Training Council since August of 2009. She works with the Associate Director on financial projects, the Executive Director on countless compliance reviews and value adding service projects and the Director of Accreditation on information management tasks. Ms. Bates earned a B.S. degree in Psychology/Biology from The College of William and Mary. She is an elected board member to the Washington DC Alumni Chapter for The College of William and Mary and is the Delta Delta Delta Representative to the Greater DC Pan-Hellenic Chapter. Ms. Bates is working on her Master of Science in Nonprofit and Association Management at The University of Maryland University College.

Elise Scanlon, Legal Counsel (2010 - Present)

Ms. Elise Scanlon is a Principal in the Elise Scanlon Law Group in Washington D.C. Before starting her own firm, Elise was counsel on the Education Team in the Government & Regulatory Affairs Practice Group of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. She also has served as Executive Director of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT). From 1999-2008, Elise managed an accreditation process that included more than 700 higher education institutions and served as a national voice on accreditation for for-profit higher education.

Elise's practice focuses on advising colleges on policy, regulatory and operational matters they routinely encounter and assisting in the development and implementation of comprehensive quality assurance systems focused on improving student achievement. She also advises accrediting agencies and other non-profit organizations on governance and management issues. Elise has a Juris Doctor degree from the Georgetown University Law Center and a BA from Dickinson College.

This may be found on our website at www.detc.org—select About DETC—The Accrediting Commission—Staff.

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