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Accreditation Update

PA programs get and give up accreditation, and a new ARC-PA board position is created.

By Terri Schaefer

2 Programs Give Up Accreditation, 5 Get It

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) voted at its mid-September meeting to award provisional accreditation to five new PA programs. Meanwhile, two established PA programs have voluntarily surrendered their ARC-PA accreditation. These changes bring the number of accredited U.S. PA programs to 148, an all-time high.

The new programs are at Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; the University of Pittsburgh; the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Ky.; Franklin Pierce University in West Lebanon, N.H.; and South University in Tampa, Fla.

The University of Pittsburgh program brings Pennsylvania's total number of accredited programs to 16, second only to New York's 20. The two new Florida programs bring that state's total to nine, ranking it fourth among states. California is third, with 10 accredited programs.

Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, La., and Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, W.Va., have surrendered their PA program accreditation as of Sept. 25.

ARC-PA also voted to award accreditation to two postgraduate programs: the Mayo Clinic Arizona Postgraduate PA Fellowship in Hospital Internal Medicine in Phoenix, and the Orthopedic Surgery PA Residency Program, a joint effort of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, Calif., and Arrowhead Orthopaedics in Redland, Calif.