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## Mitch Daniels Wins 2018 Merrill Award

ACTA's Merrill Award Selection Committee has announced the winner of the 2018 Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education: former Governor of Indiana and current Purdue University President

**Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.** We will convene in October at ACTA's ATHENA gala dinner to honor President Daniels's extraordinary accomplishments in making Purdue a model for colleges and universities nationwide by insisting on high standards, safeguarding free expression on campus, and implementing policies to increase affordability and cost-effectiveness.

Guided by President Daniels's leadership, Purdue has become a center of innovation in higher education, using technology in new and creative ways to reach non-traditional and underserved students with a top-tier education they can actually afford. President Daniels has worked tirelessly to push

the boundaries of the traditional university model, showing that a great university can simultaneously widen access, strengthen teaching and learning, and lower costs.

Under President Daniels, Purdue has proven itself to be an ardent defender of the



free exchange of ideas and has adopted the Chicago Principles of Free Expression. After being made aware of Purdue's restrictive speech policies, Mr. Daniels worked closely with students to eliminate these policies and to elevate the school to a top free speech rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). And amidst the damaging culture on college campuses

*(continued on 2)*

## Register Now for ATHENA Roundtable 2018

ACTA's **2018 ATHENA Roundtable** event will be held on **October 12** at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. Join us for a morning discussion with higher education leaders, the awarding of the **Jerry L. Martin Prize for Excellent Trusteeship** to former University of Pennsylvania trustee Paul Levy, and a dinner gala for the presentation of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual **Philip Merrill Award** to the Honorable Mitch Daniels. For more information or to register for the event, please visit [www.GoACTA.org/events/ATHENA](http://www.GoACTA.org/events/ATHENA).

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1-888-ALUMNI-8

**Dr. Carlos Campo, President**  
**Ashland University**  
**Ashland, OH**

“I have just received a copy of the latest *Inside Academe*, and wanted to thank you for the honor of being a part of this fine work. I am grateful for your friendship.”

**Judge Richard S. Bray, President**  
**Beazley Foundation, Inc.**  
**Portsmouth, VA**

“I always read . . . *Inside Academe*, but the last edition took on a special meaning with the excellent cover picture of Carlos Campo, together with the featured article. I found the interview and accompanying piece an articulate and accurate description of ACTA and its important, insightful voice in the problematic world of higher education today.”

*Editor’s Note: ACTA featured President Campo and his leadership at Ashland University in the last issue of Inside Academe.*

**John Alcorn, Principal Lecturer**  
**Shelby Cullom Davis Endowment, Trinity College**  
**Hartford, CT**

“I write to compliment Ms. Ravold for her recent interview of Bryan Caplan. I have listened carefully to all of the long podcast interviews of Prof. Caplan about his controversial new book, *The Case Against Education* . . . Ms. Ravold’s interview is perhaps the best among the excellent ones. The interview is probing, but gently so. It is well-proportioned and covers all of the book’s key themes. It is balanced and clearly points out areas of agreement and disagreement between ACTA and Prof. Caplan. It is well-paced and agile . . . I would like also to compliment ACTA for rather bravely featuring an interview about a book that raises serious doubts about the usefulness of liberal arts education on a broad scale. ACTA demonstrates an admirable mix of humility, open-mindedness, and underlying confidence in its mission.”

**Merrill Award**, *continued from 1*

of disinventions of speakers, speech codes, and intolerance, Purdue has stuck to its values: Its outstanding, interactive freshmen orientation program educates students from the first day they step onto campus about what freedom of expression is, and why it is so important to protect through the robust exchange of ideas. ACTA encourages other institutions to follow Purdue’s example in developing similar free speech education programs.

Mr. Daniels has also been a champion of accountability in higher education, enacting various measures to ensure cost-effectiveness and administrative transparency. Beginning in 2013, Purdue started a series of tuition freezes lasting into the 2019–20 academic year, accompanied by

reductions in room and board costs, and a decrease in the overall cost of attendance.

The University’s latest innovation in college accessibility is Purdue Global,

ern, affordable, and excellent. As part of its work to increase the diversity of their student body, Purdue has created the Purdue Polytechnic High School, a STEM charter school in Indianapolis focused on project-based learning and widened access to Purdue University.

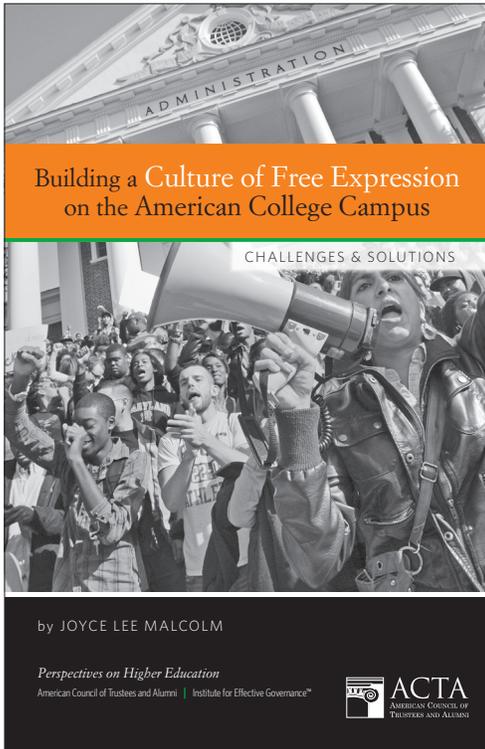
Purdue’s impressive commitment to free expression and to putting an excellent higher education that is responsive to the demands of the job

market within reach of all students—low-income, adult, and first-generation alike—captures the spirit of the Merrill Award. We congratulate Mr. Daniels on his phenomenal work thus far, and encourage trustees and college presidents to look to Purdue for more to come. ●

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an online university formed through the acquisition of the for-profit Kaplan. Purdue Global—at which Indiana resident students qualify for a tuition discount of approximately 40%—exemplifies President Daniels’s mission to provide a college education that is at once mod-

## ACTA Releases New Essay on Freedom of Expression on Campus

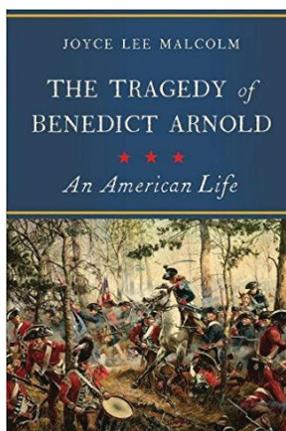


In April, ACTA's Institute for Effective Governance® released a new essay in our *Perspectives on Higher Education* series entitled *Building a Culture of Free Expression on the American College Campus: Challenges & Solutions*. Written by Joyce Lee Malcolm, Patrick Henry Professor of Constitutional Law and the Second Amendment at the Antonin Scalia Law School of George Mason University, the essay examines the crisis of freedom of expression that is currently affecting so many of America's colleges and universities, from speech codes and "safe spaces" to disinventions of controversial speakers.

Professor Malcolm summons faculty and trustees to uphold the Founders' original vision of the university as a stronghold of the robust exchange of ideas and free speech. She provides clear recommendations that institutions can follow in order to restore these values, loosen the grip of restrictive campus ideologies that prevent the expression of unpopular opinions, and encourage students to engage in reasoned debate. The essay provides examples of successful efforts to cultivate free expression, both past and present, including the 1975 C. Vann Woodward report at Yale University and Purdue University's excellent free speech orientation program.

ACTA encourages the academic community to model spirited debate for their students and calls on trustees to enact these recommendations on their campuses, so that America's tradition of intellectual exchange based on the constitutional right of free expression may be sustained. ●

### Dr. Malcolm Publishes a New Work



On May 6, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff attended Mount Vernon's book release party for Joyce Lee Malcolm's new work, *The Tragedy of Benedict Arnold: An American Life*. ACTA highly recommends this re-examination of the controversy around this complex historical figure and what it reveals about

the Revolution and the first moments of America's democracy. Dr. Malcolm is a member of ACTA's Council of Scholars and the author of the new essay from ACTA's Institute for Effective Governance®, *Building a Culture of Free Expression on the American College Campus: Challenges & Solutions*, described above. ●



Michael Poliakoff, Joyce Lee Malcolm, and Michael Unger.

# Effective TRUSTEESHIP

## Featured Trustee: Delores Brisbon

In February, ACTA interviewed Delores Brisbon, chair of strategic planning for Eastern University's Board of Trustees. The interview draws from ACTA's new video series, which features the insights of outstanding trustees across the country to help prepare current and prospective board members for responsible governance. Ms. Brisbon has served as a trustee at Eastern University for 16 years, Drexel University for five years, and the Community College of Philadelphia for 13 years. Below are selected excerpts from the interview.

### On motivation:

I don't think I decided to be a college trustee. I was invited by all of the institutions that I've served. . . . but I do consider myself a public servant. And so I decided I wanted to give the expertise that I gained in business back to higher education.

### On public service:

What does it cost to have a quality education . . . ? How do we educate young people without having them not be able to have a good quality of living once they've graduated because they're trying to pay the debt that helped educate them? That's a public issue as far as I'm concerned.



Trustees Bruce Brown and Delores Brisbon with ACTA's Armand Alacbay .

### On becoming a trustee:

You should not be a trustee if you have not embraced the mission and have it entrenched in all the work you do. If you don't have time to do the work to be a trustee, you shouldn't be one, because this is not about a social club. This is about the effect that your decisions will have on somebody's life. That's serious business.

*(continued on 6)*

## FAR Sponsors Buckley Disinvitation Dinner

On April 18, the Fund for Academic Renewal's (FAR) Executive Director Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill and ACTA's Senior Vice President Lauri Kempson traveled to New York to attend the fourth annual Buckley Disinvitation Dinner, hosted by the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale University. "FAR was pleased to sponsor the Disinvitation Dinner once again," noted Dr. Merrill. "The Buckley program is one of many donor-supported programs that aim to change the culture on campus by providing a platform for differing ideological viewpoints."

The Buckley Program's Disinvitation Dinner features a keynote speaker who has been "disinvited" from speaking at a college or university. This year's speaker, Charles Murray, was unable to present an address at Middlebury College because of protesters, who also injured Middlebury professor Allison Stanger. (Dr. Stanger spoke at ACTA's 2017 ATHENA Roundtable about the challenges to free speech on campus.)

FAR connects higher education donors with faculty and collegiate programs that deliver high-quality programming in the liberal arts and the free exchange of ideas. For more information about FAR, please visit [www.AcademicRenewal.org](http://www.AcademicRenewal.org), call 202-467-6787, or email [info@AcademicRenewal.org](mailto:info@AcademicRenewal.org). ●



**FAR**  
FUND FOR ACADEMIC RENEWAL

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# H E A R D C A M P U S O N

## Invigorating Discussion at University of Maryland–College Park

On April 5, the Steamboat Institute, in partnership with the Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets at the University of Maryland, hosted a debate and discussion entitled “Nationalism vs. Globalism” featuring Nigel Farage, the architect of Brexit, and Vicente Fox, the former president of Mexico. ACTA was proud to help sponsor the event. In the opening remarks, University President Wallace Loh spoke eloquently on why the skill of respectfully engaging with diverse opinions is vital for students to master and universities to defend, commenting that institutions must do a better job at training students “to become responsible citizens who know how to live rightly in a free society.” The spirited but respectful

discussion, moderated by Mary Kissell of the *Wall Street Journal*, examined the controversial issues of Brexit and immigration in America. We praise the Steamboat Institute and the University of Maryland–College Park for successfully bringing together individuals of opposing viewpoints to model the unrestricted exchange of ideas and train students to discuss controversial ideas in civil ways.

## Bridges Broken at the University of Virginia

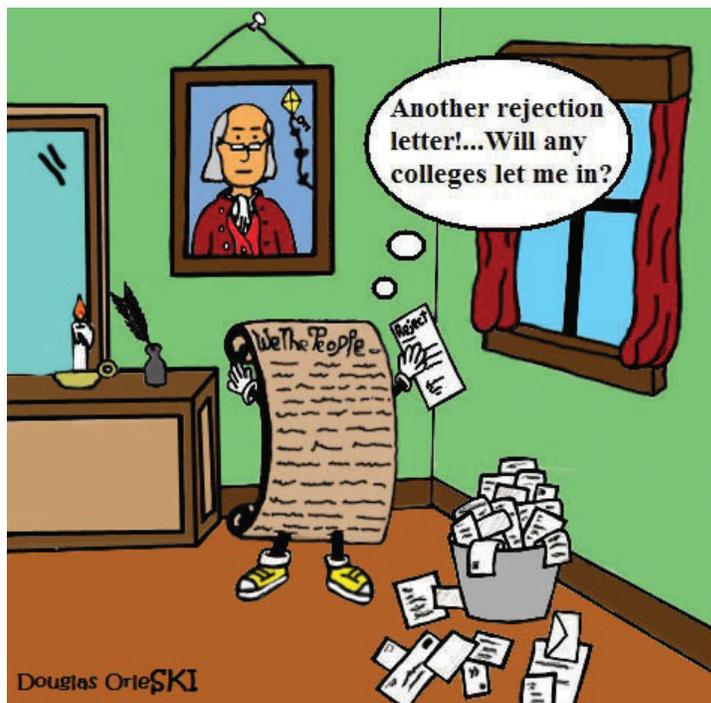
On February 22, Hillel at the University of Virginia (UVA) hosted a panel at the Brody Jewish Center entitled “Building Bridges” in an effort to invite students on campus to participate in open dialogue about contentious issues. The panel included Israeli Defense Force reservists who were to share their

perspectives and take questions from the audience. Hillel’s vision for the event was to start an honest conversation about current conflicts in Israel and to help students learn more about Israeli society. However, a group of students and non-students disrupted the event with megaphones, shouting anti-Israel slogans to prevent the reservists from being heard. Jake Rubin, UVA’s rabbi, respectfully invited the protesters to participate in a discussion with the panelists instead of harassing the speakers and attendees. They refused. In an op-ed for the *Virginian-Pilot*, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff encouraged the administration at UVA to take a stand against the “heckler’s veto” by disciplining students who violate official school policies by attempting to censor speakers with whom they disagree. ●

## ACTA Board Member Retires

ACTA is deeply grateful for the expertise and long-time service of **Carl Menges**, who is retiring from our Board of Directors. His work as a civic leader to advance and protect our nation’s core principles has truly made a difference in the world of higher education and for the public good. He performed his advisory role to ACTA with great seriousness, and his insights have helped us to execute several initiatives critical to ensuring that American higher education remains the most excellent in the world.

Carl Menges’s longstanding passion for the American Founding and the discipline of history made him a strong addition to ACTA’s board. His expertise and wisdom gained through many positions of service as a trustee at Hamilton College, the Boys Club of New York, the Allen Stevenson School, the New-York Historical Society, and the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, combined with his impressive career in investment banking, immensely aided ACTA’s work. Mr. Menges has worked admirably for higher education reform as a founding board member of the Alexander Hamilton Institute, which is an ACTA Oasis of Excellence and is featured in ACTA’s *Intelligent Donor’s Guide to College Giving*.



Doug Orleski of rvacoffeestain.com.

Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Menges for his exceptional and faithful service to ACTA. ●

This spring, ACTA staff members attended and presented at several events, advancing our commitment to the liberal arts, and advising students and scholars as they navigate the higher education system.

At the **Students for Liberty’s 2018 Conference** on March 3, ACTA’s Director of Curricular Improvement Megan Riethmiller and former Digital Media Producer & Communications Officer Christine Ravold gave a presentation entitled “Your Student Loans: The Price of the Higher Education Cartel.” Their discussion of the costly investment and often uncertain returns of college education revealed how the accreditation system has failed to serve students and taxpayers, and how weak academic standards have left students at a disadvantage as they enter the workplace.

Later in March, Executive Director of the Fund for Academic Renewal Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill and Associate Director of Development Ryan Sabot gave a presentation entitled “Working as A Political Theorist” for an undergraduate career forum at **American University’s Political Theory Institute**, an ACTA Oasis of Excellence. They spoke to a full classroom, counseling students on how to direct political theory degrees toward meaningful and successful careers.

On April 10, Program Officer for Trustee and Government Relations Shaun Rieley and Program Manager for the Fund



Ryan Sabot and Jacqueline Merrill speak at American University’s Political Theory Institute, an ACTA Oasis of Excellence.

for Academic Renewal Joe DeGraff, attended a panel discussion by **Gallup and Western Governors University** entitled “How Innovation Delivers Better Experiences & Outcomes for Students.”

And on April 24, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff gave a lecture at **Ashland University** entitled “Freedom of Thought, Freedom of Speech: The Heritage of Western Civilization.” It was sponsored by the Ashbrook Center, an ACTA Oasis of Excellence, as part of their Major Issues Lecture Series and was attended by 250 students and faculty. ●

**Delores Brisbon**, *continued from 4*

**On student success:**

When trustees look at student success, it should include the student satisfaction with a number of factors: student to instructor ratio, quality of education, quality of the teaching, and access to counseling and guidance facilities. And the trustee should also be concerned about graduation rates and whether or not the graduation is consistent with the defined period of delivery . . . if we’re saying to people that we’re going to deliver a product in four years, why does it take us six or eight?

**On board chairmanship:**

The temperament [required]

to be a board chair is to listen, to be knowledgeable, to understand the complexity of the executive’s job, and to balance that with the attitudes and behaviors of board members, which are always different. When you accept the responsibility of a board chair, you should prepare yourself, and that may mean doing an assessment of who you’re going to lead, before accepting the responsibility. If you don’t know this, after you’ve accepted the position you have a responsibility to learn, so that the board as a whole grows rather than being damaged. ●

**Thank You to Tom Rollins**

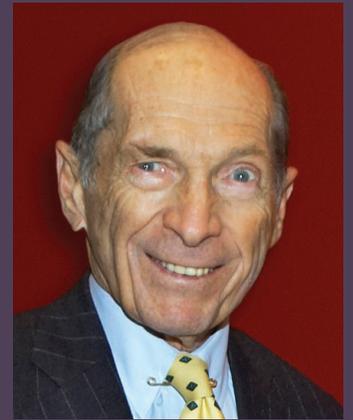
ACTA has benefited greatly from the energetic guidance of Tom Rollins, the creator and past CEO of The Teaching Company. Tom generously devoted his time to ACTA’s board for the past year, sharing experience that refined ACTA’s strategic initiatives and maximized our impact on academic freedom, academic excellence, and cost-effectiveness in higher education. We are deeply grateful.

## In Memoriam



We remember the life of **Robert H. Malott**, former chairman and chief executive officer of the FMC Corporation in Chicago and a long-time friend and supporter of ACTA. Mr. Malott was trustee emeritus of the American Enterprise Institute and a lifetime trustee of the Aspen Institute. As a former faculty member of the Harvard Business School and trustee emeritus of the University of Chicago, Mr. Malott worked to strengthen administrative accountability and provide enriching and intellectually challenging academic programs. He served on the boards of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Public Broadcast Service, the Argonne National Laboratory, the National World War II Museum, and also as the chairman of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He demonstrated compelling leadership as a trustee and recognized the unique position of board members to promote good governance and protect the values vital to a free society. ACTA honors his remarkable life and will remember his friendship and enduring legacy with fondness.

We also mourn the passing of **Eugene M. Grant**, president of Eugene M. Grant & Company and noted philanthropist. We were incredibly thankful for his support for over 15 years, including his membership in ACTA's Chairman's Society. He was an indispensable ally to ACTA, offering his dedicated assistance when we worked to defend the reinstatement of ROTC programs at many of America's elite institutions. Mr. Grant was the longest continuous donor in the history of the UJA-Federation of New York. He was a member of several boards, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Realty Foundation of New York, the Jewish Museum of New York, and as Chairman Emeritus of the Westchester Holocaust and Human Rights Center. Mr. Grant was also a passionate patron of the arts, lending his support and service to Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. We are proud to have experienced firsthand the full force of Mr. Grant's generosity. He will be greatly missed. ●



## ACTA Board Chairman Honored by Heritage

On April 28, **Robert T. Lewit**, the chairman of ACTA's board, received The Heritage Foundation's 2018 George Washington Generations Yet Unborn Award. This annual award honors an individual who, like George Washington, "makes it his highest ambition to secure the blessings of liberty for generations yet unborn."

Andrew McIndoe, director of donor relations at Heritage, introduced Dr. Lewit and praised his devotion to preserving our American heritage through defending the first principles of our nation, and his encouragement of parents and grandparents to educate the younger generation about America's history and free institutions. In Mr. McIndoe's words, through his "strong support of Heritage . . . by working as chairman of the board of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni . . . and by the example he sets with his children and grandchildren, Bob has done his utmost to carry values he cherishes—liberty, limited government, and strong patriotism—to the next generation."

In his remarks accepting the award, Dr. Lewit shared the vision that guides his work at both Heritage and ACTA: ". . .



together we all support our remarkable nation—conceived in liberty and dedicated to preserving our rights and freedoms. As Abraham Lincoln so eloquently said in December 1862 in his annual message to Congress—'we shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope on earth'—and surely, we don't want that light extinguished under our watch."

We join Heritage in congratulating Dr. Lewit for his passionate and untiring work to ensure that future generations of Americans understand and advance our most cherished values. ●

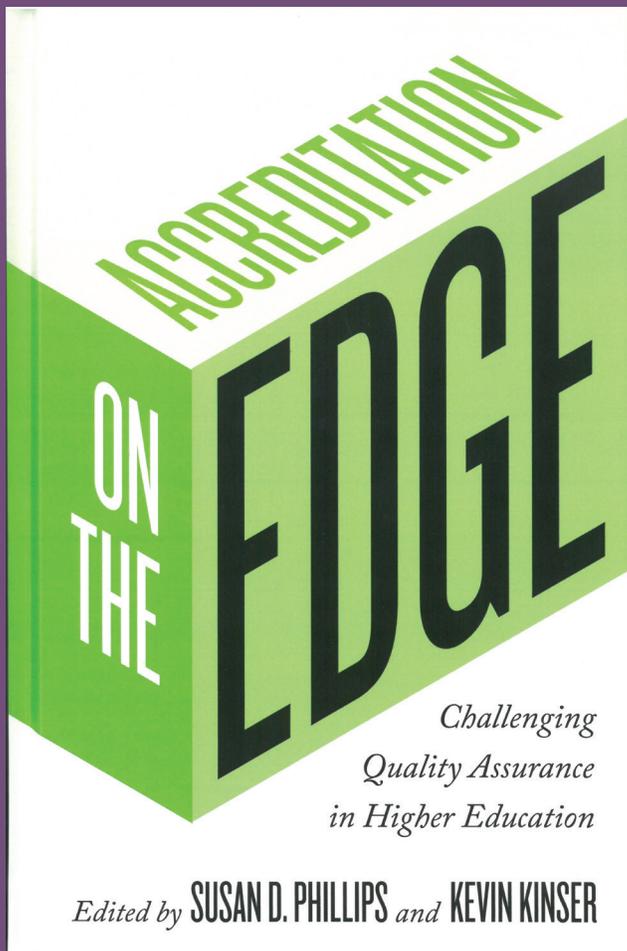


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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## **New Book on Accreditation to be Released in June 2018**

ACTA never retreats in the fight for reform of the college accreditation system, and higher education leaders are taking note.

Johns Hopkins University Press invited former ACTA President Anne Neal and Vice President of Trustee & Government Affairs Armand Alacbay to provide a chapter on accreditation reform for a new book, entitled *Accreditation on the Edge: Challenging Quality Assurance in Higher Education*, which is scheduled for release in June.

In its current state, the accreditation process is deeply flawed and fails to provide accurate evaluations of college performance and outcomes. Ms. Neal and Mr. Alacbay call for replacing this broken system with a more transparent process that will dismantle the monopoly wielded by regional accreditors. ●