The coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has had a profound impact on higher education and all segments of the aviation industry, including accreditation. AABI is focused on providing flexibility to our accredited programs while, at the same time, maintaining that all AABI criteria and policies must be met. AABI is undertaking some virtual site visits, while considering options to postpone visits and extend terms of accreditation. We are being deliberate as we develop new policies for virtual site visits, aware that virtual visits may become part of our AABI Policies and Procedures – after COVID-19 is in the history books. In scheduling and conducting our Spring 2020 visits, we are accommodating the needs and current capability of our programs as well as the needs of visiting team chairs and members. We will make case-by-case decisions that will sustain both flexibility and quality.

Six reaffirmation visits have been confirmed for the September, October, and early-November timeframe; and plans are underway for five initial accreditation visits. The staff will continue to monitor and review the situation to update the process as soon as possible, while considering personnel safety and institutional availability.

As a programmatic accreditor recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), AABI leadership is monitoring the guidelines being published by CHEA and by federal government agencies, to ensure compliance in using virtual technology to accomplish required oversight during the accreditation process. We will work with all AABI-accredited programs, and those in candidacy, to ensure their status will not be adversely affected by the exigencies of COVID-19. Our guideline is to provide flexibility while continuing to uphold the highest standards of quality. Our motivation continues to be Student Success through Continuous Improvement of aviation programs.

We remain fully committed to serving our global community and are working hard to deliver value and connectivity from today, through the summer and beyond as needed. In the meantime, it is of utmost importance to us that the collegiate aviation community and our industry partners remain fully connected.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our staff or Executive Committee members – we stand at the ready to offer our support in these challenging times.

Stay safe and well; together we will get through this unprecedented global pandemic.