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Q What board involvements have been the most influential in your relationship-building throughout higher education and Capitol Hill?

A I am proud to serve as an Executive Board Member for the American Association of Cosmetology Schools (AACCS), which is in the midst of the negotiated rulemaking process defining the Higher

Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) that was passed in 2008. In addition, I sit on a state-by-state state relations committee through AACCS. In my home state of California, I am honored to be a member of the board of the California Association of Private and Post-secondary Schools (CAPPS).

Q What led you to get so involved in government relations in regards to our industry?

A Higher education institutions must have a positive and collaborative relationship with our government to ensure quality educational standards and that financial access is available so students can achieve their educational dreams.

Working with legislature is a priority and is critical to ensure the success of our industry. I am honored to serve on both boards and to work closely with the talented school owners who dedicate their personal time to the betterment of our Industry.

Q What do you foresee being the most critical issues with a new presidential administration in office?

A The critical issues that the negotiated rulemaking sessions are addressing deal with student access to loans, the schools' accountability for default rates and the 90/10 financial calculations. All three issues are, critical issues and will impact schools operational abilities in the future. With the economic crisis of 2009 and the lending crisis, maintaining access to both public and private loans is the most important issue impacting the future of our schools. The continued efforts to work with the government to ensure access will support not just cosmetology schools but all colleges, universities and higher educational institutions.

The state relations committee that I serve on is working to ensure cosmetology's legal and government issues are addressed in the best interest of the professional. One top priority is the mobility of licenses from state to state, which is treated very differently in each state, The state relations committee is advocating to improve mobility and for all states to recognize the license and training offered in another state.