

Dear members of the higher education community,

In recent months, SHAPE America has engaged in conversations with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), Specialized Professional Association (SPA) program review auditors, SHAPE America Council Chairs, and the SHAPE America Board of Directors. After reflecting on these conversations and considering the implications, we made a decision that SHAPE America will no longer serve as the SPA for CAEP national recognition of PETE and HETE programs.

Our decision to discontinue serving as a CAEP SPA and offering SPA program reviews was not made lightly. It reflects multiple factors, including changes in federal accreditation requirements that have created more flexibility for institutions, a sustained decline in the number of PETE and HETE programs pursuing SPA national recognition, and the increasing difficulty in securing the necessary number of trained volunteers to conduct rigorous and timely program reviews with fidelity.

**This shift does not impact the PETE and HETE standards revision process.** On the contrary, it allows SHAPE America to reallocate resources previously devoted to SPA review administration toward strengthening the standards themselves and enhancing the tools and support we offer to higher education programs.

SHAPE America's commitment to our higher education community is longstanding and ongoing. We already convene higher education professionals annually and provide dedicated space for collaboration and connection — most recently through focused sessions and gatherings at the SHAPE America National Convention & Expo. We have also prioritized engagement at the regional and state levels by working closely with SHAPE America districts to connect with programs across the country.

These efforts reflect our deep belief in the essential role that higher education plays in advancing our mission, and we remain dedicated to sustaining and strengthening this partnership moving forward.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Morris  
CEO, SHAPE America