



February 20, 2026

TO: ARC-AA Sponsoring Organizations:
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
American Society of Anesthesiologists
Association of Anesthesiologist Assistant Education Programs

FROM: Ty Townsend, CAA, Chair
Jennifer Anderson Warwick, MA, Executive Director

RE: Highlights from the ARC-AA Board Meeting – January 20, 2026

The Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesiologist Assistant Board of Directors met by web meeting on January 20, 2026. The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the Board's work. ARC-AA provides official updates to its sponsors via the Board Highlights 30 days after each Board meeting. The highlights from the board meeting are below.

1. **Program Actions.** Three programs were reviewed for accreditation recommendations or progress reports.
2. **CAAHEP Standards & Guidelines.** In January 2025, the ARC-AA initiated its review of the CAAHEP *Standards & Guidelines* through a task force comprising board members, AA program sponsors, faculty, employers, anesthesiologists, and practitioners. The Board sought feedback from stakeholders through a public call for comment, and is now reviewing the input.
3. **Clinical Resources.** The Board is developing policy requirements to strengthen its oversight of program clinical resources and to provide additional evaluation and monitoring of clinical training capacity. (No policy was approved.)
4. **Annual Reports.** Each year, programs report outcomes for graduates, including retention, pass rates on credentialing examinations, and positive placements. The Board is deliberating on what additional meaningful information to collect.
5. **Next ARC-AA Board Meetings.**

2026
Saturday, April 11 @ 12 pm Mountain Time (@AAAA)
Tuesday, July 14 @ 6 pm Eastern Time
Thursday, October 15 @ TBD Pacific Time (@ASA)

Denver
web-based
San Diego

**Building the Future of Anesthesiologist
Assistants Through Accreditation**

The purpose of ARC-AA: Act under the auspices of CAAHEP¹ (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs), which is the national voluntary accreditation agency for the Anesthesiologist Assistants, assessment of educational outcomes, and recommendation to CAAHEP for accreditation of AA educational programs that meet the CAAHEP *Standards*.

The AAAA, AAAEP, and ASA sponsor the ARC-AA.

- a. Each organization nominates individuals to the ARC-AA, and the ARC-AA elects them.
- b. The fiduciary responsibility of the board's directors is to the ARC-AA.

Board Members of the ARC-AA:

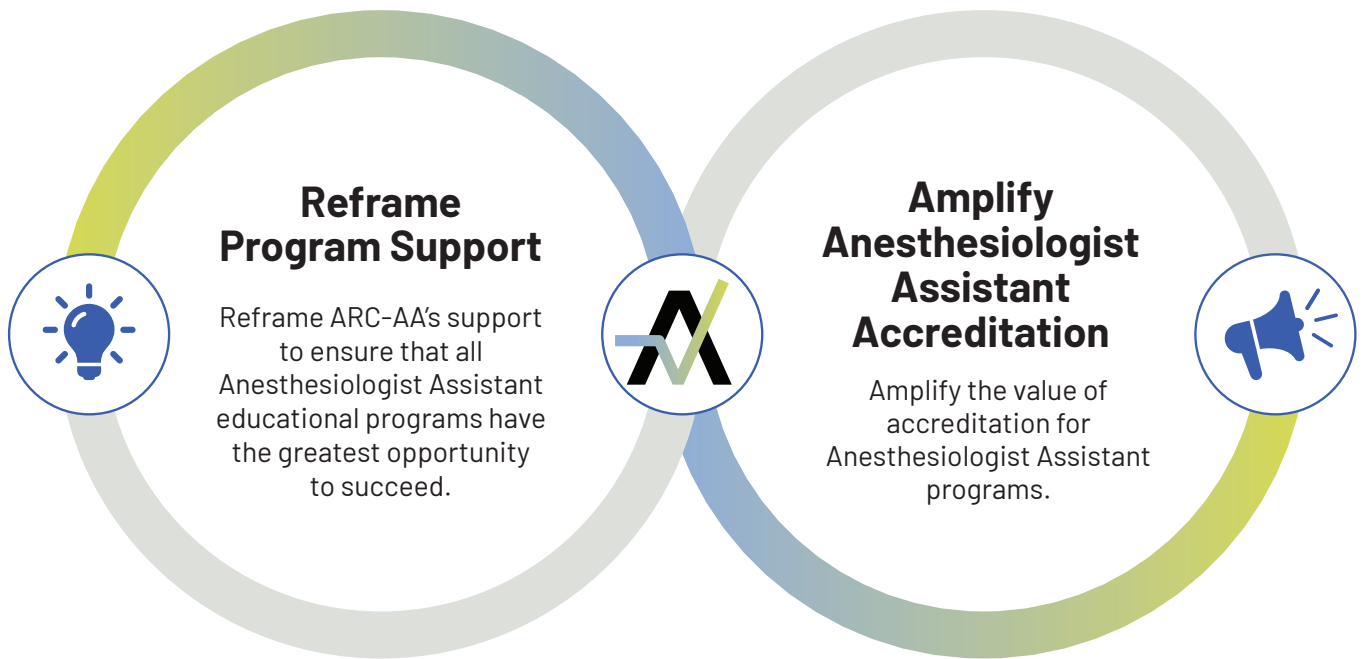
Ty Townsend, CAA (AAAA), Chair
Jermaine Leclerc, CAA (AAAA), Vice Chair
John Scott, DO (ASA), Treasurer
Nikki Brechtel (AAAA)

Sally Fortner, MD (AAAEP)
Gaurav Patel, MD (ASA)
Matthew Pinegar, MD (ASA)
Kris Tindol, CAA (AAAEP)

¹CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs



2025-28 Strategic Plan



Reframe Program Support

Reframe ARC-AA's support to ensure that all Anesthesiologist Assistant educational programs have the greatest opportunity to succeed.

Amplify Anesthesiologist Assistant Accreditation

Amplify the value of accreditation for Anesthesiologist Assistant programs.

- ✓ Reshape the guidance provided to programs to efficiently navigate the accreditation process.
- ✓ Innovate and streamline the ongoing accreditation mechanics and workflow.
- ✓ Actively create an environment that encourages and supports programs adopting evidence-based best practices.
- ✓ Scale operational capacity to support the growing number of programs.

- ✓ Increase the frequency of outbound communication.
- ✓ Deepen relationships with sponsoring organizations.
- ✓ Expand relationships with new partners.

Our Mission & Purpose

The purpose of the ARC-AA is to act under the auspices of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), which is the national voluntary accreditation agency for the anesthesiologist assistant, through development and review of the *CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Anesthesiologist Assistant*, assessment of education outcomes, and recommendation to CAAHEP for accreditation of those education programs which meet the *CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines* for national accreditation.

