

Winter Wonderment

While many ABFSE programs are in the throes of winter weather, our focus in the ABFSE office is on Spring and the April Annual Conference of ABFSE in Miami.

The agenda and hotel info may be found on the ABFSE website.

<http://www.abfse.org/html/meeting.html>

A full and informative agenda is planned that includes some new tweaks.

As always, committees will meet Tuesday (COA only) and Wednesday. Wednesday also has multiple professional development opportunities starting with the ABFSE Strategic Plan update. Come prepared to share in the 'Best Practices for Comprehensive Review' session, hear the NBE and *Embalming* textbook updates. There is also an Assessment session and a site visitor workshop for those who want to learn the expectations of being a site visitor.

Thursday is a full day with NACMS and UMSEA meetings, exhibits with the Learner's Lounge for JURA questions, New Member Orientation and Mentoring and a visit to Miami-Dade College which includes an NFDA seminar on 'Youth and Funerals'.

The Annual Meeting is shifted to Friday afternoon. In the AM, College and University Council will meet followed by a professional development session on 'Prior Learning Assessment'. The Annual Meeting will conclude with a 'town meeting' discussion regarding a funeral service only curriculum.

The Self Study Workshop will be Saturday AM. Separate registration is expected for this session so we can plan properly.

Other important winter highlights include:

- February 15 – Deadline for Annual Report and Cohort Tracking submission
- March 1 – NBE exemption request (see Appendix J)

Be sure to take another look at the updated ABFSE Standards. The 2-year process of Review of Standards will culminate with request for approval at the Annual Meeting.

<http://www.abfse.org/index.html>

Help us create our Faculty Database. Please provide a list of program faculty designating the ABFSE curriculum areas that they teach.

Consider this the first call for volunteers to participate in the Summer Curriculum Review. Four outlines are subject to review in Louisville, KY (and Jeffersonville, IN) August 1 – 4, 2019: Cremation, Microbiology, Funeral Service Management and Restorative Art.

Best wishes,

Robb and Deb