**DRAFT STUDENT INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE:**

***Note to institutional representatives:***

*Please feel free to amend the wording and/or add to this message in your own voice while maintaining the original instruction and information. Thank you.*

Dear Students:

The National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) is conducting a multi-year, comprehensive review of its accreditation standards. Your assistance is requested and would be appreciated. The NAST standards have a broad impact on theatre in higher education; therefore, we are interested in developing the best possible standards. To learn more about NAST, please visit [https://nast.arts-accredit.org](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/). To learn more about participating in the standards review process, please review the information found at the following address: [https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/proposed-revisions-comments](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/proposed-revisions-comments/). For your reference, the *Handbook* may be found [here](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/handbook/).

At this time, NAST is seeking comment regarding specific operational standards for free-standing theatre institutions of higher education (see NAST *Handbook 2019-20*, Standards for Accreditation XIX.) and specific operational standards for proprietary institutions of higher education (see NAST *Handbook 2019-20*, Standards for Accreditation XX.), and would welcome any comments pertaining to the standards individually or as a whole. Your comments will be used to inform current and future *Handbook* reviews and will be held in confidence by name.

The deadline for comment is April 27, 2020. NAST asks that you give special attention to the five major comment areas outlined and explained in the web resource [Reviewing and Commenting on NAST Standards](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/proposed-revisions/reviewing-commenting/). For your convenience, NAST has provided a set of [Frequently Asked Questions](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/proposed-revisions/faqs/) and a [**Response Form**](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/proposed-revisions-comments/reviewing-commenting/). Please refer to all three resources and use the Response Formto submit your comment*.* Response Forms may be sent directly to Jenny Kuhlmann, NAST Communications and Publications Coordinator.

The NAST comprehensive review process has been ongoing for several years. Current information is available at [https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/proposed-revisions-comments/comprehensive-standards-reviews](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/standards-guidelines/proposed-revisions-comments/comprehensive-standards-reviews/). Please feel free to participate throughout the entire process. This review process is open to all interested parties. Please feel free to forward this information.

Should questions arise at any time regarding this process or the standards themselves, please feel free to contact the NAST [National Office staff](https://nast.arts-accredit.org/about/staff/).

Thank you for your time and consideration.