SARA Overview and Update

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements for Distance Education

NC-SARA
Board Meeting
May 3, 2018

NEBHE
NC-SARA
SREB
MHEC
WICHE

National Council for
State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements
A voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of distance education

Proposal: Create a Searchable Database of Distance Education Programs Offered by SARA Institutions

NC-SARA Board Meeting

May 3, 2018

Basic Characteristics

- Part of expanded support for students, institutions, states
- Housed on NC-SARA website
- Voluntary participation, no additional institutional fees
- Programs searchable by discipline, degree level, etc.
- Search results prompt early hand-off to institutions
- Institutions certify state approval
- Up-to-date information required
- Coordination with states
- Potential coordination with *Credential Engine;* possible support from Lumina Foundation
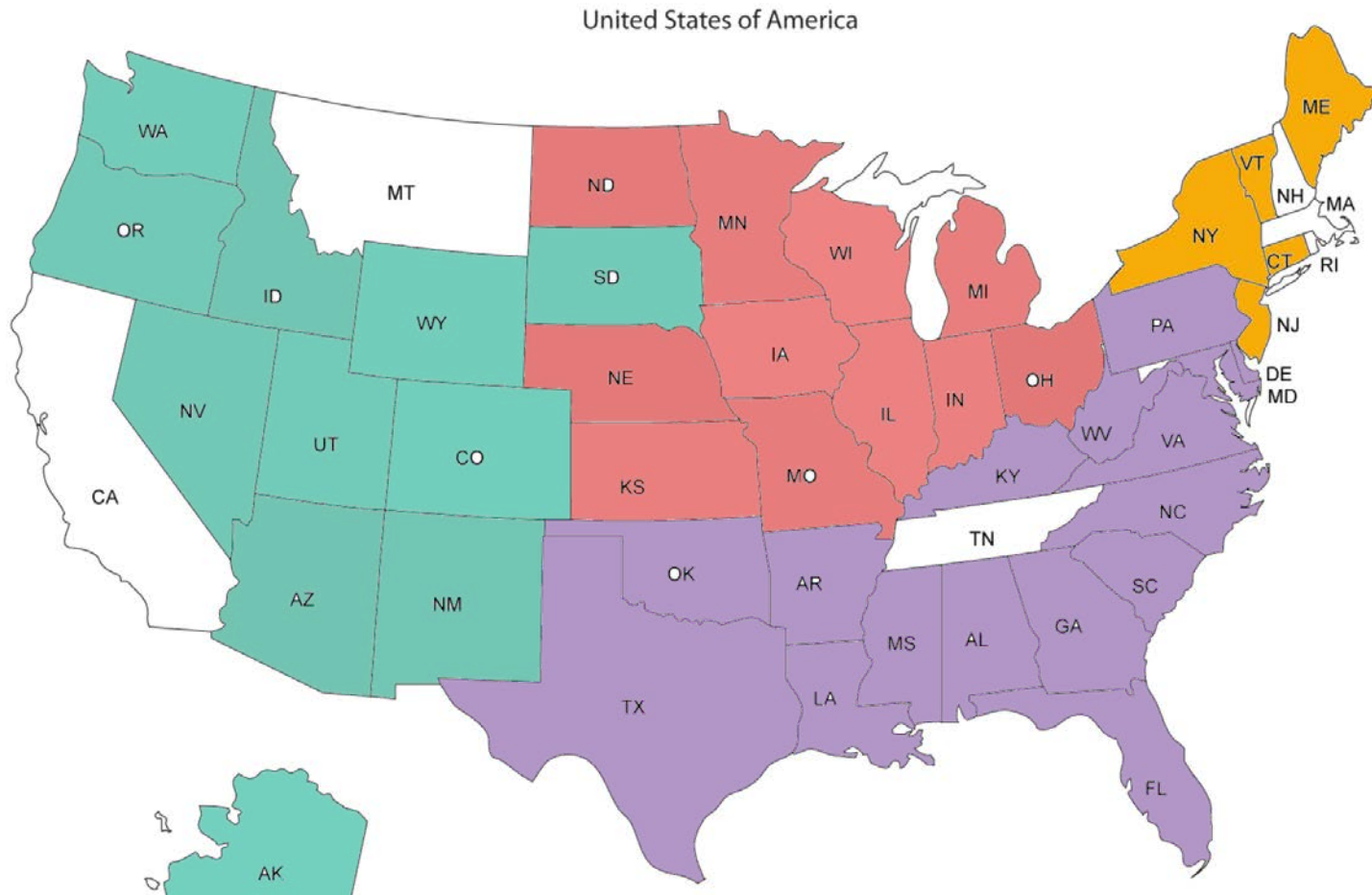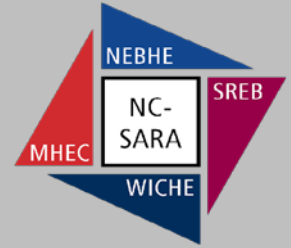
Rationale

- No such database exists
- Listed programs would be offered by institutions that have met SARA requirements regarding accreditation, *C-RAC Guidelines*, financial stability, state authorization of distance education
- Can develop, implement and maintain within current financial resources
- If approved, operating by early 2019

Feedback

- Favorable feedback when discussed at multiple conferences
- Former *SREB's Electronic Campus* institutions
  - *EC* from 1998-2017
  - About 350 institutions, across 16 southern states
- NC-SARA Survey
  - April 9-20, 2018
  - NC-SARA Blog, e-mails to all institutional SARA contacts, state portal entities, regional SARA staff, WCET/SAN distribution, mentioned on webinars
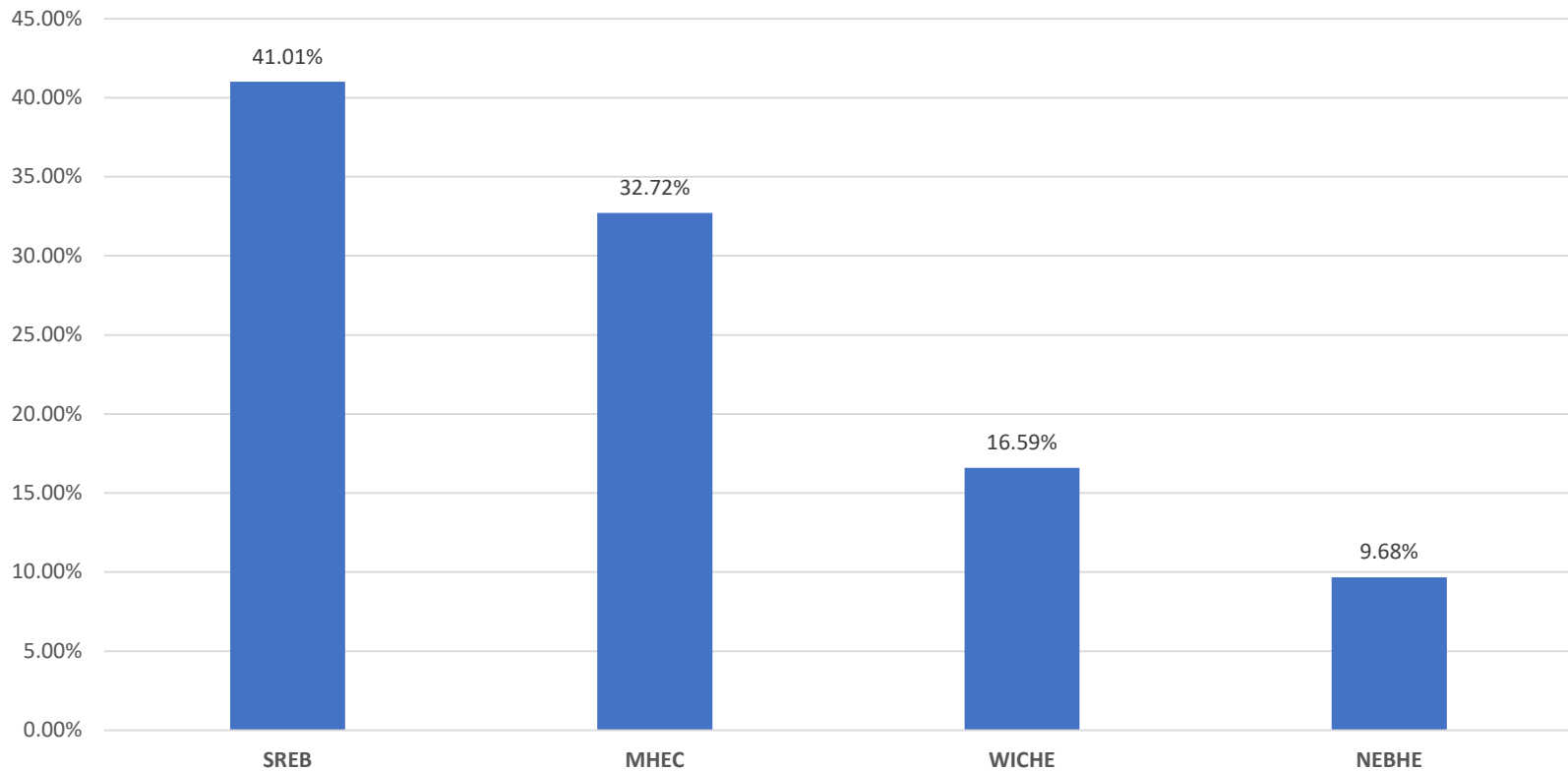
States Responding

Sources of Responses by Compact
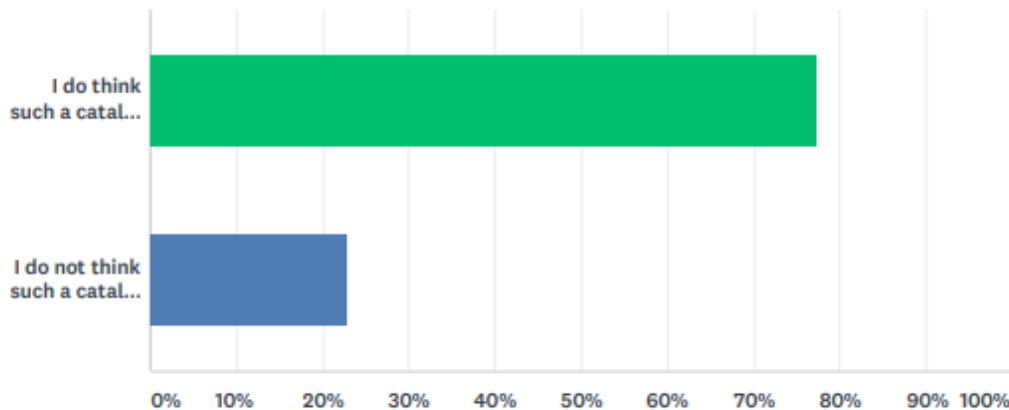

Percentage by Regional Participation

- SREB: 41.01%
- MHEC: 32.72%
- WICHE: 16.59%
- NEBHE: 9.68%

Survey Question 1: I do/do not think that such a catalog would benefit students

Q1 Students

Answered: 228   Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I do think such a catalog would benefit students	77.19%	176
I do not think such a catalog would benefit students	22.81%	52
TOTAL		228

Survey Question 1: I do/do not think that such a catalog would benefit students
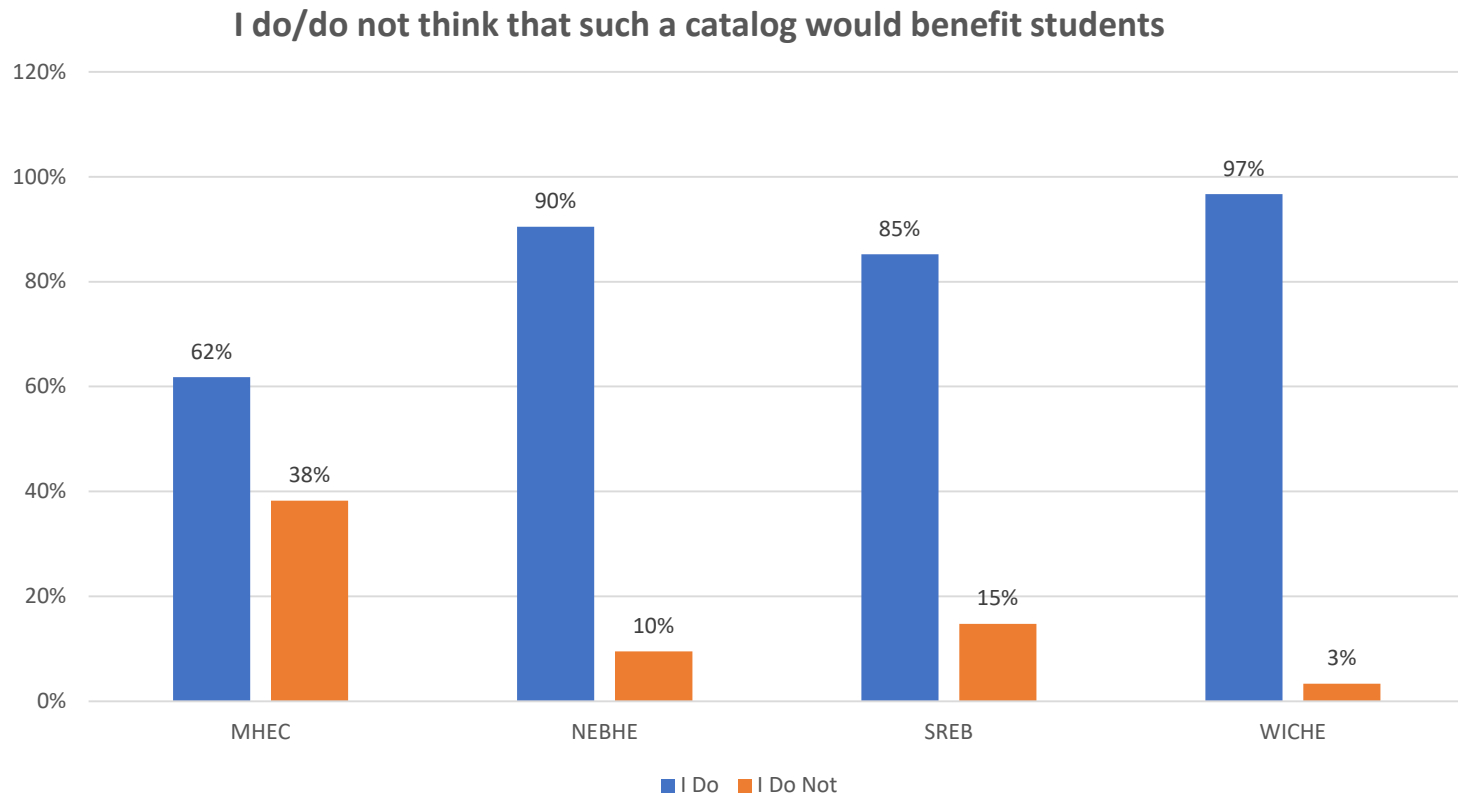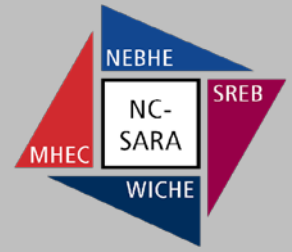
I do/do not think that such a catalog would benefit students

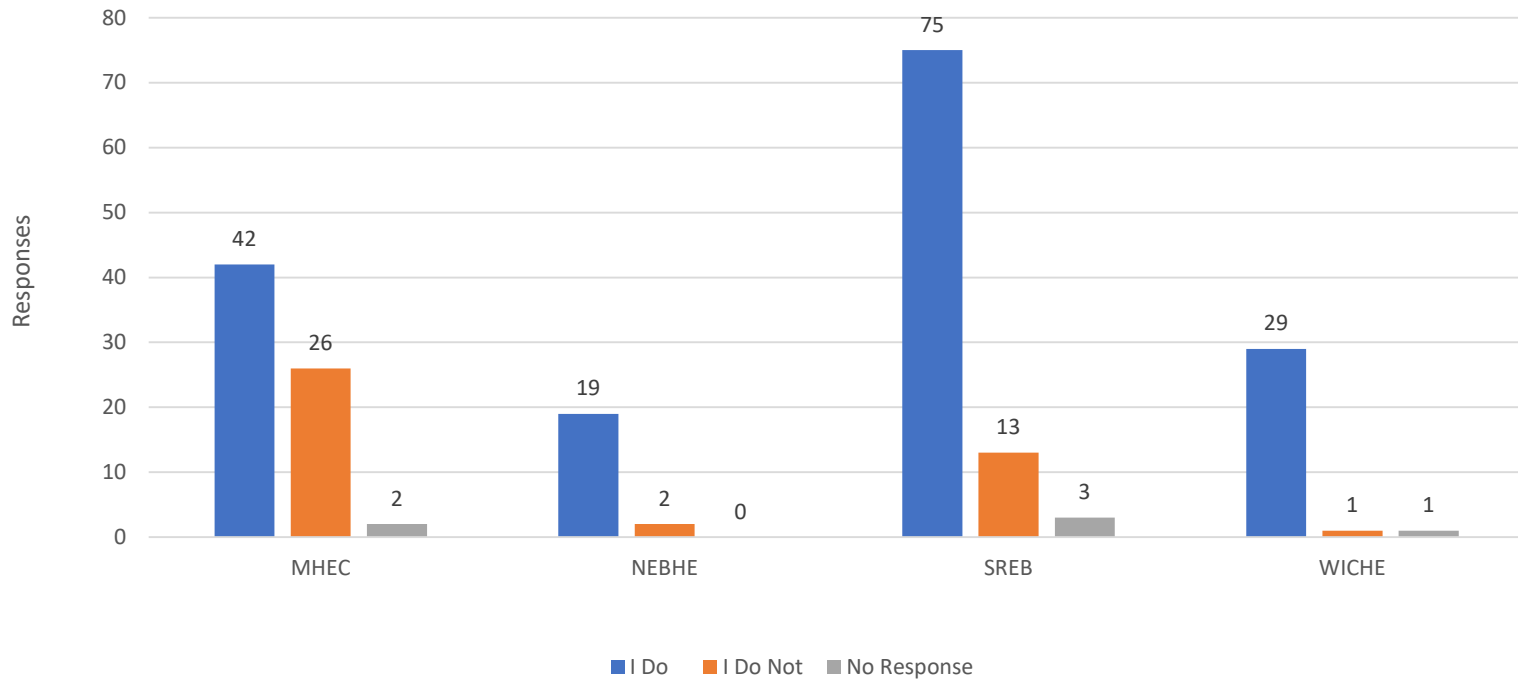|	MHEC	NEBHE	SREB	WICHE
I Do	62%	90%	85%	97%
I Do Not	38%	10%	15%	3%

Survey Question 1: I do/do not think that such a catalog would benefit students

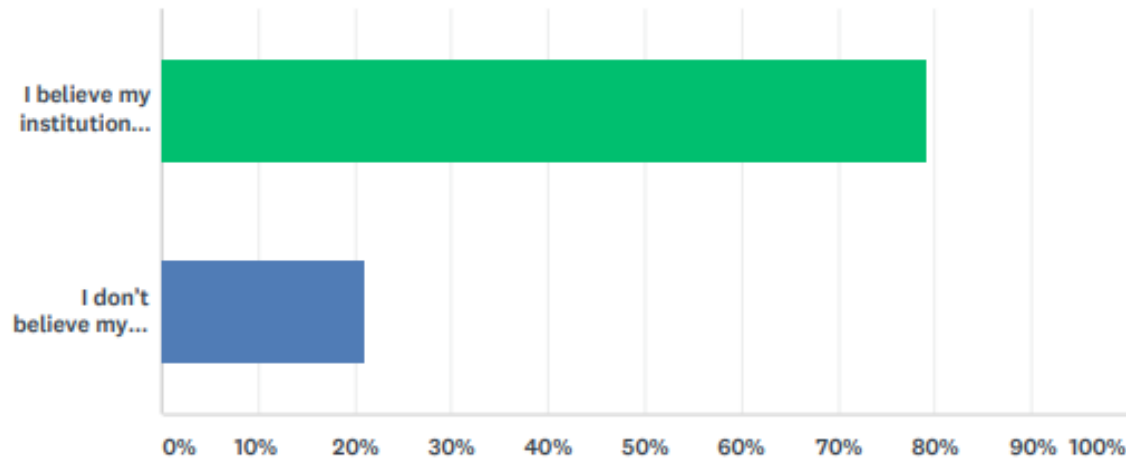**I do/do not think that such a catalog would benefit students**

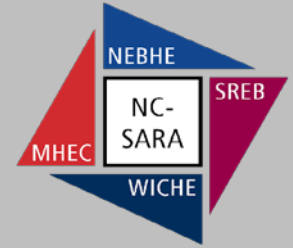# Survey Question 2: I do/do not think my institution would seriously consider contributing to such a catalog

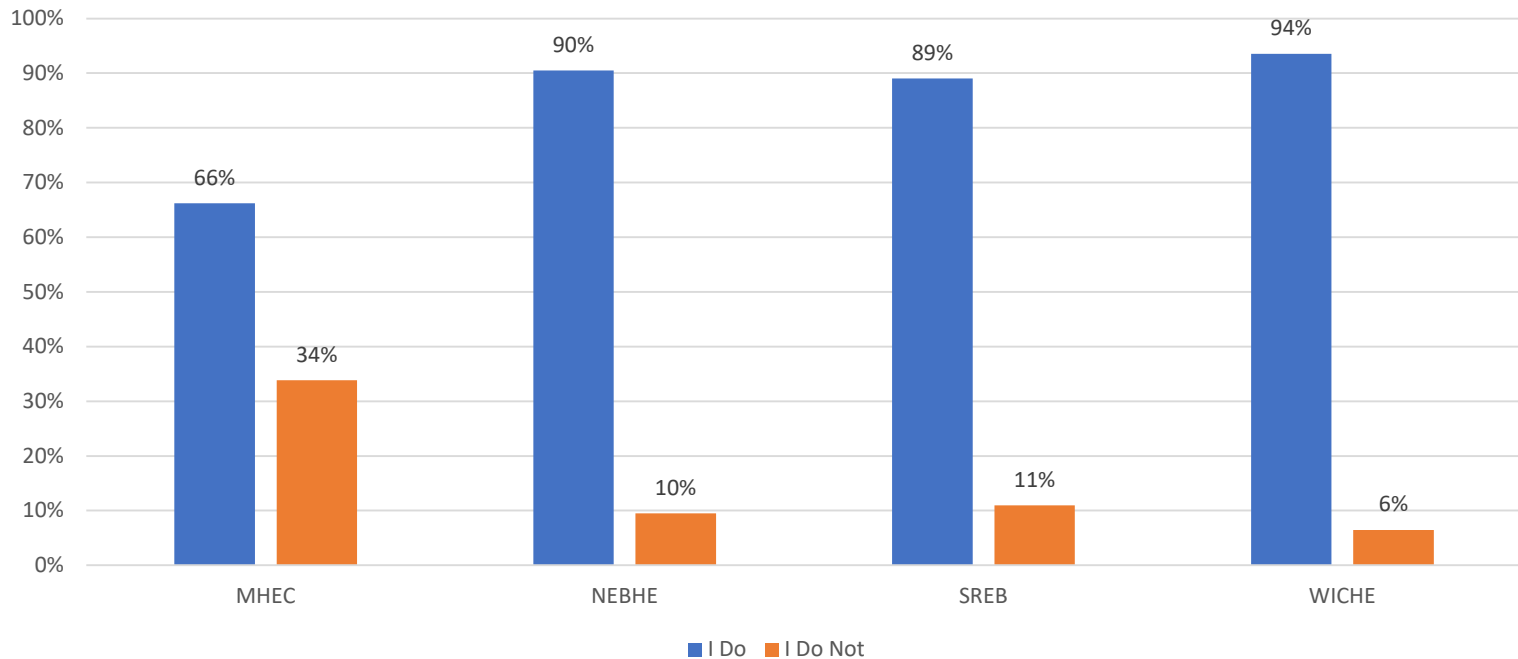## Q2 Institutions

Answered: 230   Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I believe my institution would seriously consider contributing to such a catalog.	79.13%	182
I don't believe my institution would be likely to contribute to such a catalog.	20.87%	48
TOTAL		230

5/3/2018

Survey Question 2: I do/do not think my institution would seriously consider contributing to such a catalog

I do/do not think my institution would seriously consider contributing to such a catalog

	I Do	I Do Not
MHEC	66%	34%
NEBHE	90%	10%
SREB	89%	11%
WICHE	94%	6%

■ I Do   ■ I Do Not

5/3/2018

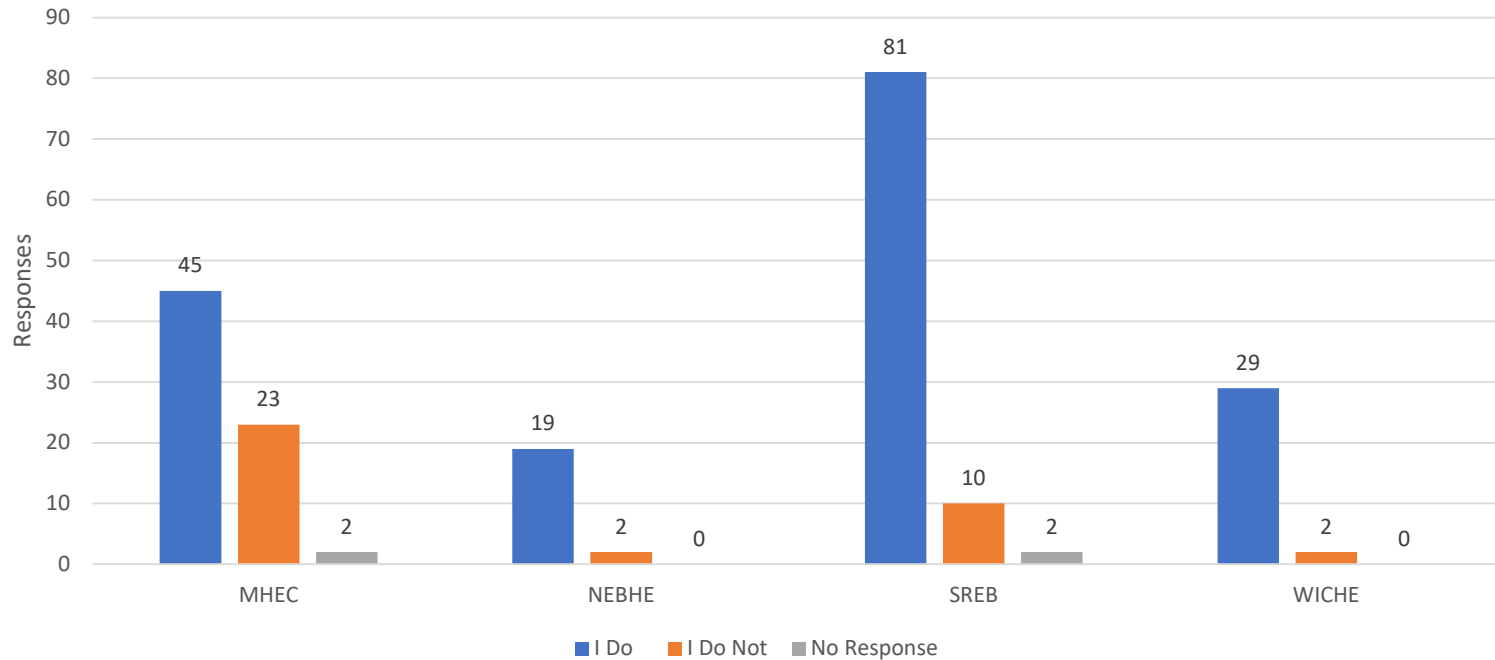# Survey Question 2: I do/do not think my institution would seriously consider contributing to such a catalog
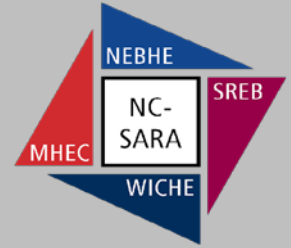

I do/do not think my institution would seriously consider contributing to such a catalog

Summary of Comments – Three Themes

- Great idea, positive step, helpful tool
  - Useful resource for students and institutions
  - Incentive for institutional participation in SARA
- Suggestions (if catalog is created)
  - Streamline the process for institutions
  - Think about including other information
- Opposition
  - Not needed, other search engines exist (Google, etc.), institutions have web pages
  - Students wouldn't use it
  - Mission creep for SARA
  - Do other things (and/or reduce institutional fees) instead

Staff Recommendation

- Create and maintain a searchable database of academic programs available through distance education and offered by SARA institutions that voluntarily choose to list such programs in the database;

- Publicize the availability of the database;

- Include funding for related work in annual NC-SARA operating budgets; and

- Collect, maintain, analyze data and periodically report to the Board on utilization of the database.