

**NH Department of Education  
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission  
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Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-0257**

February 3, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Members of the Higher Education Commission  
**From:** Edward R. MacKay, Director  
**Subject:** Director's Report

**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

The Division of Higher Education did not propose any legislation for consideration this session, but will be monitoring a number of bills. Based on the limited number of requests for Fiscal Notes, no bills would appear to have a substantive impact on the Division or Commission, though the actual language for some bills is not yet available. There are bills that would potentially impact NH colleges and universities, including eligibility for in-state tuition rates at the public systems, the authority of the Community College System of New Hampshire to award baccalaureate degrees, administering of epinephrine on campuses, or use of social media, and we will track these at a high level.

**REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS**

Director attended the New England Board of Higher Education's Competency-Based Learning Forum on October 20, 2014 in Boston, MA, and the annual meeting of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) on December 10-12, 2014, also in Boston.

Due to responsibilities unrelated to the Director's role with the Commission, Ed participated in a meeting in the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) offices on January 9, 2015.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER**

We are very pleased to announce a new member of the Division, Ms. Janet L. Fiderio. Jan has assumed "Amy's" position as our Program Specialist III and began December 29, 2014. Jan brings an excellent combination of relevant experiences to the position. She has earned a BA and MBA, in addition to many years of employment in the private sector, including eleven years of substantive higher education administrative experience in New Hampshire.

Jan served as Director of Marketing and Communications for Antioch University of New England, located in Keene. In prior capacities at Antioch, Jan served in roles such as News Director, Public Relations Manager, and Director Publications & Outreach. Her responsibilities included being part of numerous grant writing teams, an expertise that will be valuable as we seek sources of funding beyond the General Fund over the next several years.

## **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY**

As members of the Commission will recall, the Commission voted to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to approve a New Hampshire application to join the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). The Executive Committee approved the application in December and NH has become the eighteenth member of the SARA. The overall goal of the SARA is to strengthen the quality of distance education while also increasing postsecondary education access and attainment. The SARA is an agreement among participating states, districts and territories to establish comparable national standards for interstate offerings of postsecondary distance education and online courses and programs, and is overseen by a National Council (NC-SARA) and administered by four regional compacts. The regional compact for New Hampshire is the NEBHE.

The “portal” for receiving complaints regarding any NH-based institution participating in SARA has been established and institutions will be invited to apply for membership, hopefully prior to the February Commission meeting date.

The Commission is required to file a report with the Legislature every two years. RSA 292:8-h III states “The commission shall specify the degrees an institution may grant, and the commission may renew, for a set term of years, degree granting authority. The commission shall report its activity by January 31 of each odd-numbered year to both the house and senate standing committees on education.” This report was filed for calendar years 2013 and 2014. If interested in perusing this information, please contact Patti Edes, patricia.edes@doe.nh.gov

### **In-State Colleges and Universities:**

We were notified by **Daniel Webster College** that it has added two new degrees – the Bachelor of Science in Finance and the Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management. Both programs were effective with the fall 2014 semester which began September 2, 2014 and fall under existing approval to offer the Bachelor of Science.

The NEASC held a Focused Evaluation Site Visit on November 2-4, 2014 to **Daniel Webster College** with Dr. Richard A. Gustafson serving as the Commission’s observer. His full report is attached, and a summary provided as follows:

Daniel Webster College was established in 1965 as the New England Aeronautical Institute and authorized to offer Associate degrees in aeronautical engineering technology and aeronautical administration. The Institute soon changed its name to Daniel Webster Junior College, then to simply Daniel Webster College in 1978 after receiving initial accreditation from the NEASC in 1977. The College changed its status to “for profit” when it was acquired by ITT Educational Services, Inc. in the spring of 2009. The ITT acquisition included the assumption of the College’s debt and the agreement to cover operating budget shortfalls through a period of expected enrollment and financial challenges. The College’s signature flight training program was also discontinued in 2009. The NEASC has continued to monitor the financial performance of the College under ITT, as well as its progress on the assessment of student learning and the development of its online program. This set the stage for the current NEASC focused visit.

The NEASC team was led by Dr. Paula M. Rooney, President of Dean College, and focused on five areas: 1. enrollment and finances, 2. governance, 3. assessment of learning outcomes, 4. currency and accuracy of the web site, and 5. development of the online programs. The NEASC team provided an exit interview on November 4, 2014 attended by Dr. Richard Gustafson; Dr. Edward MacKay; President Michael Diffily; the board chair of Daniel Webster College; and eight other Daniel Webster College staff members.

The visiting team commended the College for its openness and cooperation throughout the evaluation process. They sensed that the College has a strong foundation and knows what needs to be done to achieve sustainability. The team hoped that the final focused evaluation report would provide direction and guidance as the College prepares for its NEASC comprehensive evaluation visit scheduled for November, 2016. The NEASC Commission will take up the report at its spring, 2015 meeting and then communicate its decision to Daniel Webster College. The Higher Education Commission should receive a copy of this communication prior to its May, 2015 meeting.

We received notification from **Mount Washington College** that it will teach out students at its Portsmouth, Concord, Nashua, and Salem instructional locations, leaving only the Manchester campus. The College will also begin teaching out seven academic programs within Allied Health and Arts and Sciences, including the following:

- Medical Assistant (Associate of Science and Diploma)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (Associate of Science)
- Communications (Associate of Science)
- Psychology (Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science)
- Graphic Design (Associate of Science)

For students who already have taken or are now taking courses in the programs scheduled for teach out, the College will offer every reasonable opportunity to complete their degrees. Many students in these programs were on track to graduate by the end of 2014. For remaining students, Mount Washington will provide the appropriate advisement, course schedules and other options to make degree completion attainable for affected students. Likewise, for students in any major who may be accustomed to taking some or most of their classes at Salem or Nashua, the College will review its course scheduling. As needed, it will offer more ground sections on the Manchester campus, as well as additional online sections to reduce the impact of longer commutes where that might occur. Projected completion dates are shown below:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Estimated Teach Out Completion Date</b>
MA Diploma	April 2015
AS Psychology	May 2016
AS Graphic Design	May 2016
AS Physical Therapist Assistant	May 2016
AS Medical Assistant	July 2016
BS Psychology	December 2017

*Medical Assistant Students*

Mount Washington College’s Medical Assistant programs (associate degree and diploma) are accredited by the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB), and it is the College’s intention that all current medical assistant students complete an accredited program. The College will not close the

programs until all students who are active as of July 2014 and who maintain satisfactory academic progress have completed their studies. This includes AS students who will be entering their second year and a new cohort of diploma students who will complete next spring. Most current faculty and staff will be retained until that time and will be given additional compensation for remaining. The College has informed MAERB of its intentions and will continue to meet all its obligations to this accreditor until program closure.

#### *Physical Therapist Assistant Students*

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and, as with the Medical Assistant programs, the College intends to offer the program uninterrupted until the last students graduate in spring 2016. The College had already admitted a new cohort of 18 PTA students at the time of the final Board decision, was concerned about their options elsewhere at the late date and will honor its commitment to them into 2016. Current PTA faculty has indicated their intention to remain with the program until it closes and will be given additional compensation to remain. CAPTE has been informed.

#### *Communications Students*

Enrollment in the Manchester-based Communications program was suspended in late 2012 and the one student currently enrolled in the program is expected to complete shortly with no anticipated difficulties or delays.

#### *Psychology Students*

Students in the AS in Psychology program will have course offerings at MWC until approximately May 2016. Students in the BS in Psychology program will have course offerings at MWC until December 2017 (or if the student elects, in the corresponding program available from Kaplan University).

#### *Graphic Design Students*

Graphic Design is offered only at the Manchester location. This program shares courses, faculty, and lab facilities with the BS in Digital Media program, which is not scheduled for teach out, so there will be no difficulty offering these courses until the last students graduate.

The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) held a site visit at **Southern New Hampshire University** on October 6-9, 2014. The Board of Commissioners of the Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Commission of the ACBSP met on November 17-18, 2014 and granted reaffirmation of accreditation. The first Quality Assurance Report will be due on September 15, 2016 and every two years after that. The ten-year reaffirmation will be due in 2024.

**Southern New Hampshire University** has degree-granting authority to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing through December 31, 2016, or until the professional nursing accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), acts, whichever comes first.

This is with the condition that copies of all correspondence to/from the CCNE be forwarded to the Commission, along with an Annual Report, beginning in December 2013, that addresses program enrollments, significant curriculum changes, the relationship with the Community College System of New Hampshire, changes in faculty that includes academic discipline, degree alignment with courses taught, degrees held/institution(s) attended, and any other significant information. The Annual Report

was received, reviewed and accepted. Per revised Hedc 400, N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, annual and/or other reports shall be reviewed by the Director, who shall report compliance to the Commission.

Southern New Hampshire University was notified by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) that it received program accreditation through December 31, 2019 for its Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing. A Compliance Report on program effectiveness and faculty outcomes is due by December 1, 2015 and a Continuous Improvement Progress Report is due by June 1, 2017. The Higher Education Commission granted approval for these two degrees until December 31, 2016.

**St. Joseph School of Nursing** appointed Ms. Vickie Fieler as its Executive Director, Academic Affairs.

**Thomas More College of Liberal Arts** forwarded its required Fall Report to the NEASC that included its data forms for Finance and Enrollment and its FY 2014 audited financial statements and management letter. The report was reviewed and accepted.

Authority to award degrees granted to the **American University of Madaba** expires on June 30, 2015, and normally an Evaluation Team would be compiled and a site visit scheduled in the next several months. Given the unrest near Jordan and concerns expressed regarding travel to that area, the Division is exploring other options for conducting a review and potentially extending licensure for a year or more, when travel to that region may be less problematic.

At its August 2014 meeting, the Accreditation Commission of the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training voted to continue the accreditation of **Upper Valley Educators Institute** for a period of five (5) years or until August 15, 2019.

#### **NEASC Activity:**

Colby-Sawyer College – Comprehensive Evaluation visit March 8-11, 2015  
Rivier University – Spring 2015  
Hellenic American University – Fall 2015  
Mount Washington College – Fall 2015  
Thomas More College – Fall 2015  
Northeast Catholic College – Biennial Evaluation visit November 8-11, 2015

#### **Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:**

The following out-of-state institutions forwarded required annual reports:

- **Antioch University New England**
- **Cornell University**
- **Lesley University**
- **MCPHS University**
- **Pratt Institute**
- **Springfield College**

Per revised Hedc 400, N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, annual and/or other reports shall be reviewed by the Director, who shall report compliance to the Commission.

The above reports were received, read and accepted.

Administrative approval was granted to the following institutions to operate in New Hampshire and offer online degrees that require a practicum/internship/clinical:

**California State University, Northridge** (Northridge, CA) – Accredited by WASC – Senior College & University Commission, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- Master of Science in Communication Disorders and Sciences: Speech Language Pathology
- Master of Social Work
- Master of Arts in Educational Administration
- Master of Public Health

**Chamberlain College of Nursing** (Downers Grove, IL) – Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Informatics

**University of Louisville** (Louisville, KY) – Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the Master of Science in Social Work until June 30, 2016.

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth** (North Dartmouth, MA) – Accredited by the NEASC, approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2016.

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute** has informed the Commission it is no longer offering the Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering and the Graduate Certificate in Electrical and Computer Engineering to employees at BAE Systems in New Hampshire. At the request of BAE Systems, those programs are now fully online to allow participation by their employees from outside of New Hampshire.

**Closed School Transcripts:**

**Lebanon College** delivered student transcripts to the Higher Education Commission office on Friday, January 9, 2015.

For the current Fiscal Year (2015), as of December 31, 2014, the Division has processed 382 college & university transcripts (\$20 each) and 68 career school transcripts (\$20 each), generating a total of \$9,000.

During the prior Fiscal Year (2014), as of December 31, 2013, the Division processed 330 college & university transcripts (\$20 each) and 49 career school transcripts (\$10 each), generating a total of \$7,090.

**COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT (CACG)**

**Submitted by Director Ed MacKay**

The CACG is being formally closed at the end of the federal fiscal year. The small remaining administrative overhead balance is being used as the initial source of funds for Jan Fiderio.

**RESEARCH AND STUDIES**

**Submitted by Janet L. Fiderio**

- In preparation for duties as the state's lead coordinator of the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Data System (IPEDS), I will be attending on-site training with the Association of Institutional Research. This full-day session, planned for February 17, will provide critical information regarding concepts, processes and resources available to IPEDS state coordinators and keyholders, as well as discussion of common problems and most effective solutions to these problems.

Additional training topics will include creating IPEDS planning documents and schedules, important IPEDS tools and web-based resources, barriers to accurate data and details on the data-collection periods.

- See the attached "Recent Research and News" for a recap of topical articles and reports.

**UNIQUE ANNUAL AWARD PROGRAM SUPPORT**

**Submitted by Janet L. Fiderio**

Preliminary data on the UNIQUE annual awards distributed during the 2014-15 academic year have been gathered from participating institutions and analyzed. This information will go to the UNIQUE Commission on February 23, 2015 to assist them in establishing the parameters for the annual awards for 2015-16.

**OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING**

**Submitted by Kimberly J. Kenneally**

The Office of Career School Licensing function continues its performance as required by RSA 188-G:1-10. As of January 14, 2015:

- Salter School of Nursing and Allied Health has withdrawn their request to continue the Surgical Technology program, at this time.
- Currently, there are seventy seven (77) licensed career schools in the State of New Hampshire.
- Eight (8) renewal applications are pending review.
- One new school: Novah Insight on Caregiving – workshops throughout New Hampshire
- Four entities requesting licensure in New Hampshire:
  - Birth Midwifery School – Strafford and Rockingham County
  - Empire Beauty School – Hooksett
  - Dara Grooming School - Keene
  - Massage Envy School - Manchester

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Kimberly Kenneally at (603) 271-6443 or by e-mail to [kimberly.kenneally@doe.nh.gov](mailto:kimberly.kenneally@doe.nh.gov).

Several Commission members have expressed potential interest in revising the N.H. Code of Administrative Rules that apply to career schools. If specific changes are identified, then the process for conducting a review would be to have the Commission appoint a working group charged with reporting back to the Commission with recommendations for consideration. If any recommendations are endorsed by the Commission, then the formal process with the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) is then initiated.

### **VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES**

#### **Submitted by James A. Margeson IV**

The Veterans Education Services team continues to grow the program, and hopes to continue to do so. Below are some of the activities that were conducted by the Veterans Education Services team from October 2014 through January 2015.

- Conducted 9 Compliance Visits
- Approved 107 new programs
- Disapproved 18 programs
- Conducted 26 technical visits
- Hosted a training conference in November for NH VA School Certifying Officials

We are also working with both the Chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire and the Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire to ensure that the State meets the July 1, 2015 deadline for the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act 2014 Section 702. This is a bill passed by congress stating that all public colleges and universities must waive residential requirements for Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans and dependents and enable those individuals to immediately be charged only the in-state tuition rate.

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to James Margeson at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail to [James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov](mailto:James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov).