

**NH Department of Education
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission
101 Pleasant Street
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February 6, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Higher Education Commission
From: Richard A. Gustafson, Director
Subject: Director's Report

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Senate Health, Education and Human Services Committee heard testimony on S.B. 221, which is the language that the Commission endorsed for technical changes to our higher education and career schools legislation. The proposed changes were well received and the bill was supported unanimously by the Committee and sent to the Senate for action. We will now track progress and keep the Commission informed.

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules reviewed the Hedc 300 Administrative Rules pertaining to the Career Schools. They took them up at the January 17, 2014 meeting of the Committee, but decided to "continue" them until the February 7, 2014 meeting of the Committee so they can see if the companion legislation, S.B 221, seems to be going forward without any opposition.

The Director provided testimony to the House Education Committee on HB 1377, a bill that proposed to amend the higher education legislation to provide that career schools may seek degree granting approval if they come before the Higher Education Commission. The Director testified in opposition to the bill on the grounds that it is unnecessary. The existing laws already provide this avenue for degree granting authority and the InterCoast College and Career Institute in Salem, NH has been so approved. We await the Committee's action on the bill.

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

None

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

The Governor and Council confirmed the appointment of Dr. Edward MacKay as the new Director of the Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission on January 29, 2014. He will assume his responsibilities on Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

Ms. Amy Slattery has left her position in the Division of Higher Education for a position in the Department of Revenue Administration. She was helpful with a smooth transition and we have posted the position to see if we can recruit a replacement. The Division has enough College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) funding remaining to carry the position at least through the summer of 2014.

Mr. Thomas Horgan, Executive Director of the NHCUC, has submitted the nomination of Dr. Stephen Jones, president of Antioch New England, to fill the private college vacancy on the Commission created by the retirement of Roger Williams, president of NHIA.

On a related matter, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Division of Higher Education and the Department of the Treasury for services provided for the UNIQUE Program has been completed and signed. The Division has invoiced Treasury for the annual transfer of \$36,000 in consideration for the services provided.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA):

There has been no additional activity with SARA since our meeting with the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) in December. The states of Connecticut and Massachusetts have sent a joint letter to the NEBHE to express their concern that if the SARA Agreement, as currently written, is adopted, it would mean that they (CT & MA) would have to accept the online programs from institutions in a number of states that are not regionally accredited. They are asking NEBHE to carry this concern to the SARA National Council.

Michael Thomas will be briefing Ed MacKay on SARA via conference call on February 7, 2014.

As I stated in earlier reports, the rollout of SARA will not be without serious concerns being addressed.

In-State

The following in-state institutions forwarded required annual reports:

- **The American College of History and Legal Studies**
- **American University of Madaba**
- **New Hampshire Institute of Art**
- **Rivier University** – Doctor of Psychology; Doctoral degrees – Annual Report of Finance and Enrollment to the NEASC for consideration in spring 2014.

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.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) – Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing - the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) conducted its first comprehensive evaluation of the online nursing programs at SNHU on January 13 – 15, 2014. The visit was observed for the Commission by Dr. Sharon George, Dean of Nursing at Saint Anselm College. Her report is included with the package of materials for the Commission. The Commission will receive the final CCNE report

and recommendations when they are available this summer. Following this report, the Commission will then decide its timetable for continued review of the SNHU program.

Franklin Pierce University: We have been informed that Franklin Pierce University will be phasing out four undergraduate majors in American Studies, Theatre & Dance, Graphic Communications, Fine Arts, Mathematics, and Arts Management.

NEASC activity:

- **New England College** - Comprehensive visit in spring, 2014
- The Commission awaits the final NEASC report on the Candidacy for **The College of Saint Mary Magdalen**. Once this report is received, the Commission will then decide its timetable for continued review.
- The Commission awaits the final NEASC report on the Initial Accreditation for **Hellenic American University**. Once this report is received, the Commission will then decide its timetable for continued review.

Out-of-State

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

South University – Savannah, GA – accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – the following degrees until June 30, 2017:

- Associate of Science in Paralegal Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Adult Health Nurse Practitioner)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Administrator)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Educator)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Nursing Informatics)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Adult Health Nurse Practitioner)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Administrator)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Educator)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Nursing Informatics)
- Post Graduate Certificate in Adult Health Nurse Practitioner
- Post Graduate Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner
- Post Graduate Certificate in Nurse Administrator
- Post Graduate Certificate in Nurse Educator
- Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Informatics
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Doctor of Ministry

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

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

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Closed School Transcripts

FY 2014 - as of January 31, 2014, we have processed 78 college/university transcripts @ \$20.00 = \$1,560.00 and 4 career school transcripts @ \$10.00 = \$40.00

FY 2013 - as of January 31, 2013, we processed 53 college/university transcripts @ \$20.00 = \$1,060.00 and 30 career school transcripts @ \$10.00 = \$300.00.

COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT (CACG)

Submitted by Director Richard Gustafson

- The amount of \$52,000 was approved by the Governor and Council on January 29, 2014. This extension was funded by residual funds from CACG and will be the CACG funds available for this successful project. CACG funding will cease on June 30, 2014.
- The New Hampshire Scholars project continues to function very well and is now focused on bringing several career and technical centers into the program. The program is funded from a variety of sources for the current fiscal year, including \$25,000 from CACG. CACG support will be complete on June 30, 2014.
- Once the Division fills the position vacated by Amy Slattery, the new staff person will focus a portion of his/her attention on closing out the CACG grant activity.
- Data on the UNIQUE Scholarship awards for the 2013-14 academic year have been gathered and analyzed. These data will go to the UNIQUE Commission on February 10, 2014 to assist them in establishing the parameters for the annual awards for 2014-15.

FINANCIAL AID

Per RSA 193:19-21, we are working on distributing monies under the Scholarships for Orphans of Veterans.

Career School Licensing

Submitted by Kimberly J. Kenneally

The Career School Licensing function continues its performance as required by RSA 188-G:1-10.

As of January 27, 2014:

- Effective June 30, 2013, S.B. 162 repealed RSA 188-G:4 the Student Tuition Guaranty Fund. The fund has returned \$402,575.07 to the contributing career schools.
- Hedc 300 Rules have been tabled at JLCAR, until February 7, 2014.
- The Salter School of Nursing and Allied Health, Surgical Technology program, has remained an ongoing concern. This office has worked diligently to assist the students in obtaining suitable clinical sites, for their externships.
- InterCoast Career School programs; HVAC Technology, Electrical, and Drug and Alcohol/Substance Abuse have been brought to the attention of this office. Partnered with Veterans Education Services, we have participated in two site visits, at the request of students, and continue communication with the administrators of the facility.
- Currently there are eighty five (85) licensed career schools in the State of New Hampshire.
- Twenty one (21) renewal applications are pending review.

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 September 2013 to January 2014.

On the Job Training & Apprenticeships:

- Bow Plumbing & Heating - New Apprenticeship
- Thursty Water Systems - New Apprenticeship
- Boston ARTCC- Compliance Visit
- New York Life - Technical Visit
- Decco, Inc. - Compliance Visit
- Delta Electric - New Apprenticeship
- Manchester PD - Compliance Visit
- Badger Plumbing Heating & Mechanical Inc. - New Apprenticeship

Career Schools:

- Commercial Driving School, LLC - Compliance Visit
- New England Institute of Canine Cosmetology - Compliance Visit
- The Student Conservation Association - Technical Visit
- The Salter School- Technical Visit
- Natural Technologies Inc.- Program Approval
- New England School of Barbering - Compliance Visit
- InterCoast Career Institute - Technical Visit

Colleges & Universities

- SNHU- Compliance Visit, Program Approvals
- Lakes Region Community College- Program Approval
- Granite State College - Technical Visit

Orientations & Conferences:

- School Certifying Officials Conference
- National Training Institute of NASAA

Outreach:

- Meeting with Veteran club at Daniel Webster College
- Hire Our Heroes Job Fair; Concord, NH
- Meeting with Concord, NH DVOP
- Meeting with Manchester DVOP/LVER
- Meeting with New Women's Prison panel
- VA Medical Center; Manchester, NH

If you have any questions regarding these activities please contact me at (603)271-8508 or by e-mail at James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov.