

Item No. 10

**NH Department of Education
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education • Higher Education Commission**

February 11, 2020 Commission Meeting

Director's Report

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETING

December 10, 2019 – attendance at the Annual Meeting of the New England Commission of Higher Education at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston, MA.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

Shireen Meskoob, Program Specialist I for the Office of Career School Licensing, accepted the position of Program Specialist IV with the NH Department of Education's Division of Education Analytics and Resources, Nonpublic School Approval Office. We wish her the best and will miss her.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

Signum University: The Commission is in receipt of the required Annual Report for calendar year 2019. The University's efforts to obtain legislative authority for its degree-granting status was unanimously endorsed by the Senate, but it has been tabled in the House. Efforts continue to move this legislation forward at the urging of the NH Department of Education. The University has postponed its pursuit of accreditation by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission until the legislative authority is achieved. Overall financial performance for FY 2019 was positive and fund raising exceeded goals; however, anticipated growth in enrollment was not realized as the University is still seeking full approval. The University will continue to seek legislative approval for its status. Signum has examined its strategic options to achieving a more stable financial future. Organic growth, taking on debt, building an endowment and the development of new programs for a broader market have been considered. The University will attempt to reach a broader market with the implementation of the Signum Path Program designed to bring humanities-based soft skills to professionals already in the work place. Signum is scheduled for a comprehensive review by the Commission in the fall of 2020.

New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Activity:

Colby-Sawyer College: The Commission is in receipt of a required Annual Report on Finance & Enrollment (ARFE), with accompanying narrative, which was submitted to the New England Commission of Higher Education. The ARFE tables, the FY 2019 independent audit, and the narrative report document the College's implementation of strategic initiatives, many related to the health sciences, to face the demographic challenges of our times. Enrollment is steady and fundraising is strong.

Colby-Sawyer College: The Commission is in receipt of a required report to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) on its Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). The MSN has been granted accreditation through December 31, 2023, with the next onsite CCNE visit scheduled for spring, 2023. The College submitted a compliance report on December 1, 2019 regarding progress on the assessment of program outcomes. It will also submit the standard mid-point Continuing Improvement Progress Report (CRIP) on June 1, 2021.

Magdalen College: The Commission is in receipt of a required ARFE, with accompanied narrative, which was submitted to the NECHE. Since achieving initial NECHE accreditation in November, 2018, the College has made good progress on enrollment, marketing, fund raising, and has brought their USDE financial responsibility ratio up from the expected 1.5 to 2.2. The have had annual operating surpluses for the past several years.

New England College: The Commission is in receipt of a letter from the NECHE to the College stating it considered the report submitted by the College regarding the establishment of two instructional locations in the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) in Texas and voted to accept the two locations: Eastfield Community College and Richland Community College and is now included in the institution's accreditation, with an effective date of September 20, 2019. At the fall 2020 site visit to assess the implementation of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree be confirmed and the scope of the visit, expanded to include an assessment of the two instructional locations in Texas. The College is planning to offer its RN to BSN program at the Brookhaven campus of the DCCCD in the fall of 2020.

Saint Anselm College: The Commission is in receipt of a required letter from the NECHE as a result of the College's Comprehensive Evaluation in the spring of 2019. The College remains in continued accreditation with a focused evaluation visit in the spring of 2020 to assess progress on matters of governance. The College is scheduled to submit the usual Fifth-Year Report in the spring of 2024, and the next Comprehensive Evaluation visit is scheduled for the spring of 2029.

Thomas More College of Liberal Arts: The Commission is in receipt of a required Annual Report of Finance and Enrollment, with accompanied narrative, which was submitted to the NECHE. While enrollment at the College remains in the 90 FTE range, operating margins have been consistently positive. Fund raising has increased to become a smaller percentage of the annual operating budget, debt has been reduced and the endowment has grown.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

- **Antioch University New England** – Antioch University maintains a campus in Keene where 1,016 students were enrolled in 2019. The University is accredited (since 1927) by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association through 2024. It has Commission approval to offer masters and doctoral degrees as follows:

Applied Psychology

M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

M.A. Dance Movement Therapy

M.A. in Marriage & Family Therapy

Ph.D. in Marriage & Family Therapy

Certificate in Marriage & Family Therapy
Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders [Hiatus]
Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis
Post-Master's Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Certificate in Substance Abuse / Addictions Counseling
M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis [Hiatus]
Certificate in Trans Affirmative Therapy [New]

Clinical Psychology

M.S. Clinical Psychology
PsyD in Clinical Psychology

Education

M.Ed. Foundations of Education
M.Ed. Elementary/Early Childhood Education (Integrated Learning)
M.Ed. Elementary/Early Childhood Education (Waldorf Concentration)
MA in Humane Education - New
Post-Master's Certificate in Educational Leadership & Administration
Certificate in Waldorf Education
Certificate in Mindfulness for Educators
Certificate in Integrated STEAM Education
Certificate for Library Media Specialist
Certificate for Educational Technology Integrator
Certificate in Trauma-Informed Education [New]
Certificate in Reggio Emilia Approach [New]
Certificate in Dyslexia Studies [New]
Certificate in Humane Education [New]

Environmental Studies

M.S. Environmental Studies
M.S. Resource Management
Ph.D. Environmental Studies
Certificate in Conservation Psychology
Certificate in Food Justice & Resilient Communities
Certificate in Climate Change Education
Certificate in Applied Spatial Analysis for GIS
Certificate in Climate Resilience Professional
Certificate in Environmental and Sustainability Education

Interdisciplinary Studies

M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

Organization & Management

M.B.A. Sustainability [Hiatus]
Certificate in Sustainable Business [Hiatus]

Programs in Hiatus have no current enrollment or recruitment for new students.

- **Cornell University** – Executive Boardroom Site portion of the Cornell-Queens Executive Master of Business Administration continues to operate in Salem, NH using a cohort model for instruction. It continues without a terminal date, but is required to submit annual reports. This is a two-year program that currently has 14 students enrolled in the 2020 and 2021 graduating classes. Recruitment is underway for the 2022 class. The University, including this program, is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (since 1921) with the most recent reaffirmation in 2016.
- **Lesley University** – The University has been offering graduate programs and certificates at the request of individual New Hampshire school districts for many years. It currently only offers an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with Specialization in Integrated Teaching through the Arts (8 enrolled, and 8 graduated in 2019) at Walnut Hill Seminar, Raymond, NH. Faculty include two full-time and three adjunct, all appropriately qualified. The University is accredited by the NECHE through 2025. Its programs are accredited by the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Teacher Education Accreditation Council, and the National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).
- **MCPHS University** – The University maintains a large educational center at 1260 Elm Street in Manchester, NH. It offers: the Doctor of Pharmacy (enrolled 136 and graduated 51), Master of Physician Assistant Studies (enrolled 107 and graduated 52), Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (enrolled 45 and graduated 31), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (enrolled 190 and graduated 92), and Master of Science in Nursing (enrolled 7 and graduated 0). The Master’s program in Physician Assistant Studies was placed on probation in September, 2017 by its accreditation association, ARC-PA. This status was removed on November 6, 2019 confirming continued accreditation status until the next review in 2027. License examination pass rates are provided for each program and the University provides examination preparation support for its graduates. The University is accredited by the NECHE and its health occupation programs are accredited by the appropriate accreditation associations. There was a leadership change at the University with the retirement of President Charles F. Monahan, Jr. in January, 2020. Executive Vice President Richard J. Lessard will serve as Interim President until a permanent president is hired.
- **Pratt Institute** – The Institute has been offering its programs in New Hampshire since 1977...43 years. The Spring/Summer Intensive Program in Lincoln – Master of Professional Studies in Art Therapy and Creativity Development and a Master of Science in Dance/Movement Therapy served 39 students and graduated 8 in 2019. Both degrees have increased their course/graduation requirements to 60 credits. This was done to make both programs license eligible in states where graduates must be licensed as counselors. The programs are accredited by the American Art Therapy Association and the American Dance Therapy Association.

Administrative Approvals for Online Programs:

Administrative approval is granted to institutions within states that are not members of the NC-SARA or have elected to not participate through NC-SARA to operate in New Hampshire and offer online degrees that require a practicum/internship/clinical. These institutions are as follows:

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Los Angeles, CA), accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2022:

- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology
- Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavioral Analysis

International Colleges and Universities:

Nothing to report

CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

From July 1, 2019 until January 31, 2020 (FY 2020), 1,377 college/university transcripts and 45 career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$28,440.00**. During the same period in the prior year (FY 2019), a total of 1,627 college/university transcripts and 48 career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$33,500.00**.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Research and Studies related activities completed this quarter include:

- Compiled the UNIQUE Annual Allocation Program (UAAP) and UNIQUE Endowment Allocation Program (UEAP) data regarding funds received and distributed to students at participating institutions for the State of New Hampshire Treasury.
- Fulfillment of miscellaneous research requests, including legislator requests and support.
- Completed SHEEO State Higher Education Finance (SHEF) and Grapevine surveys.

Please review “Director’s Report: Winter 2019-20 Research and News” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attachment).

Top issues noted in the report this quarter:

- Community Colleges
- College/Workforce Collaborations
- Student Debt/Paying for College

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Program Support

We provide continued support for all NH institutions that submit IPEDS data. The current IPEDS collection cycle closes on February 12. The surveys to be completed include: Student Financial Aid, Graduation Rates, 200% Graduation Rates, Admissions and Outcome Measures. Steady progress is being made by the institutions.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING (OCSL)

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Newman

Shireen Meskoob has moved to another division in the Department of Education and interviews for a replacement are underway.

Correspondence between the OCSL and career schools this past quarter indicates that schools need continued assistance with understanding the revised statute, RSA 188-G, and the NH Code of Administrative Rules, Hedc 300, more than a year after those amendments. The amended indemnification coverage amount is a point of contention that the OCSL faces. Small businesses are finding it difficult to obtain the required amount, and many of them have asked for an extension to their license renewal date to be able to obtain surety riders or new forms of indemnification. One school has closed because it did not have the assets required for obtaining sufficient indemnification. This school, and others, offer payment plans to students and, as such, cannot report the full contracted tuition as an asset, even though the bond requires indemnifying the full contracted tuition. Indemnification is among the areas that the office seeks to review in how to approach career schools finding it difficult to obtain one. This winter and spring, the OCSL will also seek to review the revised statutes and rules, forms, and guidelines now that both have either passed or are approaching their 1-year anniversary.

Below are some of the other activities that were conducted by the OCSL team since the last Commission meeting in October of 2019.

Completed site visits to the following schools:

- Harmony Health Care Institute, LLC
- CNA Now

Renewed the licenses of the following schools:

- Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Currently reviewing license renewal applications for the following schools:

- American Academy of Health and Beauty
- Lamprey
- The New Hampshire School for Mechanical Trades
- All Dogs
- Visible Edge
- Imaginit
- Med Pro

Processing the closing of the following schools:

- Seacoast Career Schools (Medical Careers)
- Holistic Academy of Natural Disciplines (Massage Therapy)

Communicating with the following new school who will submit initial licensure applications:

- Herbology

Researching the following schools who may need to obtain licensure:

- FiberNext, LLC (Certified Fiber Optic Technician)
- StoneMakers (Become a Dealer Program)

Granted Initial License:

- None

Processing applications for the following new schools:

- None

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Jeffrey S. Newman at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail at jeffrey.newman@doe.nh.gov

VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES (VES)

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Newman

(VES) is New Hampshire's State Approving Agency that approves all facilities and programs that are subject to funding under the GI Bill®. This includes institutions of higher learning, high schools, non-college degree programs and certificates, on-the-job training and apprenticeships. This includes both traditional college study and workforce development programs. Currently, there are approximately 7,170 veterans and dependents in New Hampshire involved in various programs and courses of study subject to the GI Bill®.

Below are some of the activities the VES team accomplished from October 1, 2019 through February 1, 2020:

- Conducted Training for School Certifying Officials in Manchester, NH at Southern New Hampshire University Millyard campus;
- Worked with New Hampshire Military Leadership Team and New Hampshire National Guard Scholarship Committee to work to improve the status of statewide veterans programs, initiatives, and dispersal of funds;
- Conducted compliance survey visits to 2 facilities: New Hampshire Police Academy (Police Standards and Training Council) and Plymouth State University;
- Conducted 4 new facility site visits including: Dover Police Department; Londonderry Fire Department; J4 Electrical; and Eckhardt Johnson; and
- Provided 215 program approvals and withdrawals at the request of school certifying officials.

Students Receiving VA Educational Benefits:

IHLs (Institutions of Higher Learning):

- Antioch University of New England: 12
- Colby-Sawyer College: 8
- Dartmouth College: 54
- Tuck School: 16

- Geisel School: 7
- Franklin Pierce University (all campuses): 20
- Granite State College (all campuses): 182
- Great Bay Community College (both campuses): 79
- Keene State College: 77
- Lakes Region Community College: 23
- Manchester Community College: 78
- Magdalen College (formerly Northeast Catholic College): 2
- MCPHS University (formerly Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences): 6
- Nashua Community College: 39
- New England College: 63
- NHTI – Concord’s Community College: 72
- Plymouth State University: 85
- River Valley Community College: 38
- Rivier University: 35
- Saint Anselm College: 29
- Saint Joseph School of Nursing: 1
- Southern New Hampshire University (all campuses and online): 5,415
- Thomas More College of Liberal Arts: 1
- UNH (all campuses): 497
- White Mountains Community College: 30

NCDs (Non College Degree schools):

- American School of Nursing and Medical Careers (ex-Salter): 5
- Commercial Driving School: 6
- Continental Academie of Hair Design: 2
- Dover School of Technology: 1
- Empire Beauty School (all campuses): 4
- Heavy Construction Academy: 60
- Michaels School of Hair Design: 1
- NH EMS Institute: 4
- NH School of Barbering: 6
- New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training: 1
- New Hampshire Police Standards and Training: 23
- NH School of Mechanical Trades: 9
- Paul Mitchell: 3
- SOLO/Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities: 1
- Whole Pet Grooming Academy: 1

Apprenticeships:

- All apprenticeships: 26

On the Job Training:

- All OJTs: 40

Flight Schools:

- All Flight Schools: 2

Total: 7,170

Note: This information is based on Veterans Benefits Administration Facilities Count Report for New Hampshire, November, 2019. Current numbers may vary. (Attachment)

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Jeffrey Newman at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail at Jeffrey.Newman@doe.nh.gov.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

We are actively tracking numerous bills with potential implications for the postsecondary education community. The following lists the most relevant bills:

HB 1243	Relative to the degree-granting authority of an educational institution in New Hampshire.
HB 1236	Relative to the expectation of privacy.
HB 1268	Establishing a committee to study student loan forgiveness on the basis of volunteer work, includes service in the legislature.
HB 1327	Relative to the authority of the department of education.
HB 1407	Relative to adopting rules relative to departmental forms.
HB 1469	Relative to hazing at educational institutions.
HB 1487	Relative to freedom of speech and association on college campuses.
HB 1500	Relative to a student loan bill of rights and a student loan ombudsman.
HB 1522	Requiring colleges and universities to report allegations of sexual assault to local law enforcement. ALL INSTITUTIONS
HB 1582	Providing free tuition at colleges and universities for children of veterans who are totally and permanently disabled. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
SB 542	Relative to membership on the professional standards board.

SB 585	Relative to requirements for a one year certificate of eligibility to teach.
SB 679	Relative to policies on sexual assault in higher education institutions. ALL INSTITUTIONS
SB 726	Relative to programs to aid veterans' access to employment, entrepreneurship, housing, health care and college degrees.

For further information on any bill, the link to N.H. General Court is as follows:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/quick_search.html