

**NH Department of Education  
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission  
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February 13, 2018

**To:** Members of the Higher Education Commission

**Subject:** Director's Report

I began employment as the Director on November 20, 2017. Since that time I have been busy trying to acclimate myself to the issues and needs of the Higher Education community. I am so appreciative of all the time and assistance I have been given by Todd Leach, Michele Perkins, Steven DiSalvo, Steve Appleby, Ross Gittell, Ed MacKay, Dick Gustafson, Sister Paula Marie, and many others. I hope to continue to meet with the rest of the Commissioners and other Higher Ed stakeholders to get their insights and concerns. Thank you.

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

I attended several sessions at the New England Association of Schools & Colleges Annual Meeting on December 14, 2017 in Boston. The key meeting was the New England State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) luncheon set up by Barbara Brittingham, President, Commission of Institutions of Higher Education of the NEASC. Key comments from the group included:

1. Brenda Dann-Messier, Commissioner, Postsecondary Education, Rhode Island – 3 goals
  - a. *Attain 70/25*, now at 25%
  - b. *Affordability*, offering free 2 year community college for 2017 grads who attend full-time, called the Rhode Island Promise
  - c. *Equity Goal*, trying to create Adult version of the Rhode Island promise
2. Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner, Massachusetts
  - a. Massachusetts will be joining NC-SARA, but will take time to implement
  - b. They are getting some casino money for higher education
  - c. Lost 25% of staff because of FTE caps from state.
3. Tim Page – Chancellor, University of Maine
  - a. They are the oldest state in the US demographically
  - b. They have a 60% attainment goal if 100% of K-12 grads go to a postsecondary school still only closes gap by ½
  - c. Froze tuition for six years
4. Derek Langhauser – Community College of Maine
  - a. 78% of students are on financial aid for \$3,600 tuition
  - b. 38% of high school students are not going on to college
5. Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor, Vermont (includes Community Colleges)
  - a. Have the same issues as everyone – competition
  - b. University of Maine – less cost than New Hampshire and Vermont
  - c. Currently consolidating services

- d. Merging two colleges up north
- e. University of Maine has a good telepresence
- f. Get 16% of revenue from State
- g. Would like to learn how to play in distance learning

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER**

We are in the process of trying to hire additional staff for the Bureau of Credentialing and Teacher Prep Program Approval. We have created a permanent position to centralize review all N.H. Code of Administrative Rules.

### **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY**

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

**Colby-Sawyer College:** The College submitted its Annual Report on the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) on December 26, 2017. The MSN degree is approved through December 31, 2018 and is in the process of seeking accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The CCNE already accredits the College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing and R.N. to B.S. in Nursing programs. The CCNE has scheduled a site visit for February 26-28, 2018 and the Higher Education Commission will have an observer to monitor this visit. The Commission will have the observer's report for its May 8, 2018 meeting.

**Rivier University:** The University has degree-granting authority through June 30, 2019 for its Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology and the Doctor of Nursing Practice programs.

A self-study for the Psychology Program has been submitted to the American Psychological Association (APA). This self-study will be reviewed by the APA at its April, 2018 meeting. Following this review the APA is likely to schedule a site visit in the fall of 2018. The Higher Education Commission will have an observer to monitor this visit.

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) is scheduled to conduct a site visit in the fall of 2018, but dates have not been set as yet. Again, the Higher Education Commission will have an observer to monitor this visit.

Rivier University has a strong history in both of these disciplines, so it is expected that the reviews will go well. Once the final reports are received from the respective accreditation associations, the Commission would/could then grant continued degree-granting authority to align with whatever the accreditors decision.

Going forward, the Commission reserves the right to observe future accreditation visits, but if the programs remain strong and fully accredited, it may not be worth the time and expense. A review of future self-studies and subsequent accreditation reports may be sufficient.

**Southern New Hampshire University:** The University received Commission approval to offer the RN to BSN and MSN programs on September 27, 2012 and submitted its annual report on December 31, 2017. Both programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and are offered exclusively online through the College of Online and Continuing Education. SNHU remains in

good standing with CCNE with the normal 5<sup>th</sup>-year site visit scheduled for March, 2019.

Students are encouraged to enroll in a single course each term and both programs have a 70% target for graduation rates. Early data in the RN to BSN programs indicate these targets are being met. Students in both programs are tracked by academic year of entry in terms of enrollment, completions, inactivity, changes of major, and withdrawals. Over the course of the five years of the program the RN to BSN program has enrolled 5,802 students and the MSN 1,039 students.

Curriculum changes were made in the MSN program in the fall of 2015 to strengthen alignment with professional nursing standards, resulting in a significant increase in enrollment.

The programs are supported by a Chief Nurse Administrator/Dean, three associate deans, 12 full-time faculty, 108 part-time faculty, and three support staff. These meet expected staffing ratios.

SNHU has individual academic arrangements with each community college in the CCSNH which offer dual enrollment, tuition discounts and CCSNH graduates move seamlessly into the RN to BSN, and then can articulate directly into the MSN program.

#### ***New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) Activity:***

**The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts:** The College submitted their required NEASC Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment (ARFE) in December, 2017. The report will be reviewed by the NEASC at its spring meeting on March 1, 2018. This report will lead naturally into the College's self-study as it prepares for a scheduled NEASC focused visit in the fall of 2018. The report is comprehensive and addresses the ARFE tables as well as several areas of emphasis of interest to the NEASC. The financial position of the College continues to improve and is no longer required to maintain a financial aid letter of credit by the US Department of Education. The Commission will have an observer to monitor the NEASC visit in the fall of 2018.

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

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

- **Antioch University New England** – Antioch University maintains a campus in Keene where 804 students were enrolled in 2017. The University supports three doctoral, 12 masters and 15 graduate certificate programs. A new Interim Provost and Campus CEO were appointed in the fall of 2017. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association reaffirmed its regional accreditation through 2023-2024.
- **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. This is a two-year program that currently has 13 students enrolled. The University, including this program, is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
- **Lesley University** – The University has been offering graduate programs and certificates at the request of individual New Hampshire school districts for many years. Programs are currently offered in Raymond, Concord, Merrimack and Woodsville. Most courses and programs are online with some having residency requirements on campus in the summer or over school breaks. Programs include a M.Ed., Educational Technology, a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with Specialization in Integrated Teaching through the Arts (4 enrolled and 1

graduate), and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study. The University is accredited by the NEASC and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

- **MCPHS University** – The University maintains a large educational center at 1260 Elm Street in Manchester, NH. It offers the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Master of Science in Nursing. The center enrolled 512 students and produced 196 graduates in 2017. The University is accredited by the NEASC and its health occupation programs are accredited by the appropriate accreditation associations. The University is addressing several accreditation citations in its Physician Assistant program and lower pass rates in its PharmD program.
- **Pratt Institute** – The Institute has been offering its programs in New Hampshire since 1977...40 years. The Spring/Summer Intensive Program in Lincoln – Masters in Art Therapy or Dance Therapy served 42 students and graduated 6 in 2017. 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 National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (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:

**Northeastern University** (Boston, MA), accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Advanced Manufacturing Systems until June 30, 2019.

**University of Southern California** (Los Angeles, CA), accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the Doctorate of Physical Therapy until June 30, 2019.

### **CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS**

From July 1, 2017 until January 31, 2018 (FY 2018), **1,499** college/university transcripts and **39** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$30,760.00**. During the same period in the prior year (FY 2017), a total of **1,326** college/university transcripts and **38** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$27,280.00**. The increase in requests was mainly driven by Mount Washington College requests.

### **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.
- NC-SARA complaint coordination. The Division received two complaints related to NC-SARA member institutions since October and seven non-NC-SARA, college-related complaints.
- Fulfillment of miscellaneous research requests, including legislator requests and support.
- Completed SHEEO State Higher Education Finance (SHEF) and Grapevine surveys.

- Attendance at/ the New England Secondary School Consortium New England meeting where planning took place for next year's data cycle.
- Research projects: All associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees awarded from 2014/15 through 2016/17 by CIP code; Advanced Placement (AP) Credit in NH; Higher Education Complaints Logged 2015 through 2017 as requested by the Governor's Office.

Please review "Director's Report: Winter 2017-18 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
- Default Rates

### **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Program Support**

Organizing a free IPEDS training at the DOE for NH college/university and career school institutional research staff to be held on April 2 & 3. 25 to 45 staff members from across the state will attend. The 2-day training will be paid for by the Association of Institutional Research (AIR), who is under contract with the Federal Government.

The topics of the classes are: Best Practices for Reporting and Using IPEDS Data to Improve Office Efficiencies, Student Financial Aid Training, and IPEDS Data and Benchmarking: Supporting Decision Making and Institutional Effectiveness.

In addition, we are providing continued support for all NH institutions that submit IPEDS data. The current IPEDS collection cycle closes on February 14. 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**

**Submitted by Shireen Meskoob**

The Office of Career School Licensing (OCSL) team continues to capture an increased interest and participation of school owners and administrators in both a discussion and revision of the NH Code of Administrative Rules and an increasing awareness of the economic and societal value that careers schools have for New Hampshire. These topics were included in the Annual Career School Training Meeting hosted by the OCSL and Maverick Technical Institute in early October, where approximately 30 school representatives were in attendance. We also recently held an OCSL Stakeholder's Meeting on 2/5/18 to review the changes recommended in the Rules. We will be presenting the rules at this meeting for your review and approval.

Below are some of the other activities that were conducted by the OCSL team:

- Assistance provided to two new out-of-state schools in submitting an Initial Application: Age of Montessori and Birthwise Midwifery.
- Initial conversation with prospective new school in the field of body art training in Windham, NH.

- Assistance provided to two schools for exemption from the OCSL: Chez Boucher and Manchester Community Resource Center Inc.
- Assistance provided to two schools for school closure: New England Institute of Therapeutic Sciences and Computer Aided Products.
- Licenses approved for operation:
  - Thomas Institute of Hypnosis
  - Ramsay Media
  - Nashua Adult Learning Center
  - Boatwise LLC
  - New England EMS Institute
  - Dartmouth Hitchcock Workforce Readiness Program
- Invited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges as an observer for the on-site evaluation at Harmony Health Care Institute on November 21, 2017.
- Investigation opened of a student complaint at Northeastern Institute of Whole Health.
- License renewal training provided for new compliance officers hired at Dale Carnegie Training and IMAGINiT Technologies.

These schools have submitted their application for license renewal with the application currently under review by the OCSL:

- All Dogs, Inc.
- Becker Professional Education
- CompuMaster
- Hands On Technology Transfer, Inc.
- IMAGINiT Technologies
- Maverick Technical Institute, LLC
- Sig Sauer Academy
- SkillPath
- TENET Electrical School
- TPC Trainco

These schools have submitted incomplete applications for their license renewal prior to the expiration of their licenses:

- Animal Behavior College, Inc.
- Lamprey Health Care, Inc.
- New Horizon's Computer Learning Center
- Performance Training Associates
- SolutionsIQ, Inc.

They are working without a license. We are working to rectify and are evaluating the assessment of fines.

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

## **VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES**

**Submitted by James A. Margeson IV**

The Veterans Education Services (VES) team continues to expand the educational opportunities for veterans and their dependents, and is committed to continuing to do so. Below are some of the activities conducted by the team from October 2017 through January 2018:

One or both members of the VES team participated in the following activities during the period from October 2017 through September 2017:

- National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) Conference calls
- New Hampshire Military Leadership Team
- New Hampshire School Certifying Official (SCO) Conferences
- US Veterans Administration Conference Calls
- US Veterans Administration Webinars
- Met with US Veterans Administration
- Met with the Hooksett VetCenter to train counselors on VES in NH
- Met with the New Hampshire State Apprenticeship Committee
- Conducted five VA compliance Visits
- Conducted VA Target Risk Based Reviews at UNH and Granite State College – institutions were found to be in compliance with the target assessment area.
- The VES suspended and reinstated Heavy Equipment Academy due to a U.S. Veterans Administration investigation and violation of guidelines.
- Additional schools are being looked into by the U.S. Veterans Administration’s Regional Office and our office.

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

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

### **2017 Session**

HB 477 Relative to free speech on campuses in the university system and the community college system. **Inexpedient to Legislate**

HB 609 Establishing a children's savings account program and making an appropriation therefor. **Brought Forward to 2018 Session**

HB 647 Establishing education savings accounts for children with disabilities. **Died on Table**

SB 41 Establishing a fund to forgive certain educational debt and making an appropriation therefor. **Died on Table**

SB 101 Relative to enrollment eligibility for regional career and technical education programs and relative to high school students participating in New Hampshire’s dual and concurrent

enrollment program and making an appropriation therefor. **Signed by the Governor on 7/10/17**

SB 193 Establishing education freedom savings accounts for students. **Brought Forward to 2018 Session**

SB 228 Establishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership (NH GRIP). **Died on Table**

### **2018 Session**

HB 609 Establishing a student career and college investment program and making an appropriation therefor. Division II Work Session scheduled for 2/13/18 at 10:00 a.m., LOB 209

HB 1100 Establishing a commission to review and evaluate workforce and job training in New Hampshire. Public Hearing scheduled for 2/14/18 @ 10:00 a.m., LOB 307

SB 358 Relative to reorganization of the department of education. House - Ought to Pass with Amendment

SB 361 Relative to dual and concurrent enrollment agreements between high schools and colleges and universities. Senate - Ought to Pass with Amendment

SB 442 Relative to surety indemnification requirements for private postsecondary career schools. Referred for Interim Study – Executive Departments and Administration

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