

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

May 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

There are relatively few bills being tracked by the Division. The status of primary legislation is as follows:

House Continuing Resolution 12 urges support of the 65x25 initiative in New Hampshire. The resolution passed the House and was unanimously approved by the Senate Rules, Enrolled Bills, and Internal Affairs Committee. Approval by the full Senate is anticipated. Sponsor: Representative Wayne Burton

H.B. 1551 would establish a John and Molly Stark scholarship program, providing half in-state tuition grants for qualified residents for up to three years with a potential cost of up to \$20 million annually when fully implemented. The bill was sent to interim study, effectively killing it for this session. Sponsors: Representatives Wayne Burton, Mary Gile, Mel Myler

S.B. 314 would revise the process for selection of the two career school representatives to the Higher Education Commission by simply replacing the old name with the new name for the career association (American Council for Professional Education and Training). The bill was approved by both the Senate and House, and the Governor is expected to sign it soon. Sponsors: Senators Nancy Stiles , Molly Kelly, David Watters, John Reagan; Representatives Kenneth Weyler, Mary Gile, James Grenier

S.B. 408 would provide \$50,000 in funding for a three-year pilot for the Children's Savings Account Program. The bill passed the House without any funding and was sent to the Senate, where it has been placed on the table. Although funding is unlikely, there is technically still a chance for approval. Sponsors: Senators Kevin Avard , Lou D'Allesandro, Molly Kelly, David Watters; Representatives Kenneth Weyler, Mary Gile, Rick Ladd, Donald LeBrun

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

In the role of Director, there was out-of-state travel for a March 3rd New England Board of Higher Education Board Meeting in Boston, and a March 30-31 workshop on Co-Requisite Education in Atlanta, Georgia sponsored by Complete College America.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

Pat Moquin, part-time Program Assistant I for closed school transcripts, was hired to fill the full-time Program Assistant II position. She will continue providing transcripts to students and assist with Division administrative, financial aid and accounting duties.

In an effort to improve efficiency and effectiveness in operations, it was decided that James A. Margeson IV, Veterans Education Services, would be upgraded to an Administrator I and also assume supervisory responsibility for Kim Kenneally in the Office of Career School Licensing. There now will be a total of three positions in VES and OCSL, a reduction from the four budgeted in recent years, but for which continuing revenue was not available.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

Colby-Sawyer College notified the Division that it found it necessary to alter the planned length of the Master of Science in Nursing (approved at the February 4, 2016 Commission meeting). Rather than the original 17-month program that was designed in conjunction with their partner, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, they have extended the completion time frame to 21 months. The rationale for this change was the move from a full-time curriculum to a part-time curriculum which would enable the enrolled students, who are practicing nurses, to continue to work in their clinical setting for 24 hours per week.

A focused visit to **Hellenic American University** will occur in October, 2016 with Dr. Richard Gustafson and Dr. Robert Henry serving as the Commission team. The team will assess implementation of the BS in Engineering in Electrical Engineering approved last year and a conduct a general review of financial, enrollment and governance issues. There is an action item on the Commission agenda for this meeting that would extend Hellenic American University approval for all programs until June 30, 2018, thereby enabling a more extensive Commission team visit to be conducted in conjunction with the NEASC Comprehensive Evaluation scheduled for the fall of 2017.

The Division received a copy of a letter from the NEASC stating acceptance of the report submitted by **Mount Washington College** regarding its teach-out plan for students enrolled at the College. The College officially closed April 30, 2016. The Division received 65 boxes of transcripts from the former Hesser/Mount Washington institution to retain for students seeking documentation of their enrollment at the school.

New England College forwarded its Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment submitted to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). This report will be considered at the spring 2017 NEASC meeting.

Rivier University forwarded its Annual Report on the Doctor of Psychology. This report was reviewed and accepted.

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

NEASC completed a Comprehensive Evaluation of the **New Hampshire Institute of Art** in April, with Director MacKay serving as the official Commission observer. As with many public and private tuition dependent institutions in New England, the Institute faces enrollment and operating revenue challenges. President Kent Devereaux has undertaken significant staffing changes and other actions with the full support of the Board. A recommendation on continuing approval for the Institute will be made for Commission consideration during the October meeting after review of NEASC findings, and in a continuing effort to align Commission actions with the NEASC.

Upcoming NEASC Activity:

- **Daniel Webster College** – Comprehensive Evaluation in November 2016
- **The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts** – Comprehensive Evaluation in Fall, 2016, and Dr. Richard Gustafson has agreed to serve as Commission observer.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

Lesley University has notified the Division that it will discontinue offering the following degrees:

- M.Ed. in Educational Technology
- M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with Specialization in Literacy: Language, Reading and Writing – Concord, Merrimack, Woodsville
- M.Ed. in Special Education
- M.Ed. in Mathematics Education
- M.Ed. in Effective Teaching

Administrative approval was granted to the following institutions from non-National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) states to operate in New Hampshire and offer online degrees that require a practicum/internship/clinical:

Burlington College (Burlington, VT) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & College, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- Associate of Arts in Medical Assisting
- Associate of Arts in Pharmacy Technology
- Associate of Arts in Advanced Manufacturing

Chamberlain College of Nursing (Downs Grove, IL) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and was re-approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- RN to BSN Degree Completion
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Informatics
- Doctor of Nursing Practice

Clarion University (Clarion, PA) is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and was approved to offer the Master of Science in Library Science until June 30, 2018.

Herzing University (Menomonee Falls, WI) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

Master of Business Administration

- Master of Business Administration in Accounting
- Master of Business Administration in Business Management
- Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management
- Master of Business Administration in Human Resources
- Master of Business Administration in Project Management
- Master of Business Administration in Public Safety Leadership
- Master of Business Administration in Technology Management
- Master of Business Administration – Dual Concentration Option

South University (Pittsburgh, PA) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and was approved to offer the RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2018.

University of Southern California (Orlando, FL) is accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges, and was approved to offer the Master of Public Health until June 30, 2018.

By past practice, the Commission delegates authority to the Director for approval of these out-of-state institution requests, and Commission acceptance of the Director's Report ratifies the approval to operate in New Hampshire with the stipulated limitations.

CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS AND FINANCIAL AID

For the first nine months of FY 2016, **500** college/university transcripts and **45** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$10,900**.

For the first nine months of FY 2015, **563** college/university transcripts and **102** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$13,300**.

Work continues on closing out the forgivable loans made through former financial aid programs.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Research and Studies related activities completed this quarter include:

- Coordination of the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange (MLDE) exploratory meeting in Concord. The MLDE is an initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that seeks to build a sustainable system to securely exchange individual-level education and workforce data among 10 or more states. This meeting was attended by representatives from the Community College System of New Hampshire, University System of New Hampshire, New

Hampshire Department of Education, New Hampshire Department of Employment Security, and New Hampshire Department of Labor and other agencies.

- Website update of National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research: [Completing College: A State Level view of NH Student Attainment Rates](#)
Additional NSC Completing College Study materials are now available on the NH Department of Education, Division of Higher Education website include:
[A New England States Comparison](#)
[Study Outcomes by Type of Institution](#)
[Six-year Completion Rates Across State Lines](#)
[Appendix Tables on Enrollment Mix and Current and Historic Coverage by Institution Type](#)
- Assistance in coordinated effort to enable NH to join the Federal FAFSA Completion Initiative.
- Completion of the UNIQUE Annual Allocation Program (UAAP) and UNIQUE Endowment Allocation Program (UEAP) report of funds received and distributed, and for the endowment program, earnings and market value as of June 30, 2015, by institution.

Please review “**Director’s Report: Spring 2016 Research and News**” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attachment). Issues being highlighted for this report include:

- Community colleges
- Alternative credentials
- Remedial education trends

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) PROGRAM SUPPORT

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

New Hampshire, Title IV-eligible, higher education institutions just completed their Spring IPEDS surveys. The surveys, due on April 6, covered Fall Enrollment, Finance, Human Resources, and Academic Libraries. Preliminary survey data is expected to be available in the IPEDS Data Center by mid-October.

IPEDS State Data Conference: Jan Fiderio attended the national IPEDS state coordinator’s workshop and conference April 25 through 27 in Washington, DC.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING

Submitted by Kimberly J. Kenneally

On February 1, 2016 James A. Margeson IV accepted the supervisory role over the Office of Career School Licensing. Presently the office authorizes seventy six (76) licensed career schools. Sixteen (16) license renewals have been completed since the February 2nd Commission meeting.

Currently the office is engaged in considering two new schools: Mountain View Culinary Academy, Ossipee, and Unique Systems Skills, LLC, Nashua.

The following schools have communicated their decision to close operations in New Hampshire and, therefore, each has received the Hedc 313 School Closure procedure: EMGC, Inc., Derby, CT; Vital Kneads, Gilford, NH; New England Institute of Canine Cosmetology, Bow, NH.

Diane and Steve MacDonald, the new owners of the Arvigo Institute, LLC, are in discussions with the OCSL office and the New Hampshire Department of Justice (Attorney General's Office) for determination of their new licensing fees and surety bond coverage. This determination has been complicated due to the nature of the Institute's "tuition" received from out-of-state affiliates and precedents that may be established.

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

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 February 2016 through April 2016.

- Conducted **7** Compliance Visits
- Approved **61** new programs
- Disapproved **27** programs
- Conducted **1** NH School Certifying Official (SCO) Training & Planning Committee meeting.
- Attended the 2016 National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) Mid-Winter Meeting in Washington, DC.

Statistical report August 2015 through January 2016:

The following payment amounts are based on what entities have reported to the Veterans Education Services, and include all schools approved under the GI Bill.

The VES office continues to see a significant increase in enrollment of VA students to New Hampshire schools throughout the reporting periods:

- Colleges & University increasing 15.5% from the last reporting period (February 2015 through July 2015)
- Career Schools increasing 11.5% from the last reporting period (February 2015 through July 2015)

Total tuition and fees successfully paid to the schools from the VA (which only includes Chapter 33 & Chapter 31):

- \$21,932,522

Based on lowest rate possible for each chapter that is paid directly to the student (Chapter 30, 35, 1606, and 1607), the estimate amount provided to students during this period of reporting is:

- \$270,322

In summary, **\$22,202,844** was the minimum paid out by the VA for VA students for tuition and fee stipends from August 2015 through January 2016.

*These amounts do not include what the VA has paid out for housing allowances and book stipends

The breakout for Colleges and Universities:

- 4,004 = Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- 487 = Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits that have been transferred to a dependent (Chapter 33 T)
- 297 = Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- 545 = VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31)
- 398 = Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)
- 315 = Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
- 24 = Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607)

This represents a total of **5,185 veterans and 885 dependents**, with a total of nearly \$18.5 million in payments to the colleges and universities.

The breakout for Career Schools:

- 366 = Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- 7 = Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits that have been transferred to a dependent (Chapter 33 T)
- 2 = Montgomery GI Bill- Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- 5 = VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31)
- 5 = Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)
- 3 = Montgomery GI Bill- Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
- 1 = Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607)

This represents a total of **377 veterans and 12 dependents**, with a total of roughly \$3.4 million in payments to the schools.

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