

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

May 10, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Higher Education Commission

From: Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

Subject: Commissioner's Report

Commission Wide

Staff Development/Office Issues/Other

Recruitment for the director's position remains ongoing.

2012 Legislation

Legislative bills that we are tracking this session are as follows:

H.B. 508 – relative to funds administered by the division of higher education and the higher education commission. This bill establishes a dedicated fund in the Department of Education for the deposit of fees related to degree-granting and research and studies functions of the division of higher education and the higher education commission. Ought to pass with an amendment

H.B. 1265 – relative to criteria for government regulation of occupations. House Interim Study

H.B. 1338 – relative to failure to renew a professional or other occupational license. House Interim Study

H.B. 1552 – relative to the reporting of funds. Ought to pass with an amendment

H.B. 1669 – requiring the deposit of dedicated fund revenues into the general fund for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years and requiring non-constitutionally established dedicated funds to be eliminated on June 30, 2015 unless reinstated by the legislature. This legislation affects a number of our dedicated funds. It is in House Finance. House Interim Study

H.B. 1692 – making changes to the administration of the university system of New Hampshire. Ought to pass with an amendment

S.B. 213 – relative to the authority of state agencies to assess fines and penalties. Senate Interim Study

Report of Out-of-State Meetings

On April 10, 2012, Patti Edes attended the New England TRIAD Meeting at the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in Bedford, MA. Representatives from Maine, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire were present. Information was shared regarding the U.S. Department of Education's requirement for out-of-state online institutions to register with each state to become authorized to enroll students who are residents of that state. The NEASC "Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education (On-Line Learning)" was circulated and an update from the New England Board of Higher Education regarding "Regional Reciprocity for State Authorization of Online Learning" was presented by Michael Thomas, President and CEO. Discussion followed the presentation with those present were in agreement that reciprocity was the direction to follow.

College and University Activity

In-State

Media reports state **Chester College of New England** is facing financial constraints that could lead to closing the institution or a merger with another institution. A letter was forwarded to the president advising him of the potentially applicable procedures. The Commission is here to assist the College.

We have been notified by **Colby-Sawyer College** that it has submitted a proposal to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for approval for a "substantive change" to offer two certificate programs online - Coaching and Human Resource Management - with a proposed implementation for fall, 2012.

As of January 30, 2012, Sherrie Palmieri has been officially appointed as Executive Director, Academic Affairs, at **St. Joseph School of Nursing**, replacing Camilie Twiss.

The NEASC has scheduled the following evaluation site visits for the Fall of 2012:

Chester College of New England – Focused Visit
Daniel Webster College – Focused Visit
Granite State College – Substantive Change Visit to Review M.S. in Project Management
Hellenic American University – Focused Visit
Plymouth State University – Substantive Change Visit to Review the B.S. in Nursing
Rivier College – Comprehensive Review – November 11-14, 2012

Out-of-State

Administrative approval was granted (until June 30, 2015) to the following out-of-state institutions that offer online degrees that require an internship/practicum/residency:

Goodwin College – East Hartford, CT – accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges – Histologic Science Certificate Program

Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Standish, ME – accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges:

- Master of Science in Education

- Master of Science in Nursing

Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, OH – accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools:

- Bachelor in Science (maternal-child health/lactation consulting)
- Master of Arts (concentration in counseling psychology)
- Master of Arts (concentrations in liberal arts/social sciences)
- Doctor of Psychology (concentration in clinical psychology)
- Doctor of Education (concentrations in educational leadership – pre K-12 or higher ed.)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA – accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education – Master of Science in Nursing

University of the Rockies, Colorado Springs, CO – accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools:

- Doctor of Psychology
- Doctor of Philosophy

University of the Southwest – Hobbs, NM – accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools – Master of Science in Education

The **Case Western Reserve University, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing** notified us that it is no longer operating in New Hampshire and offering core courses and related courses as part of its Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program at the Exeter Hospital, Exeter, N.H.

At the May 12, 2011 meeting, the Commission voted to approve **Cornell University** to continue to operate in New Hampshire and offer the “Executive Boardroom” portion of the Cornell-Queens University Executive Master of Business Administration through June 30, 2013, with a commitment that Jim Craiglow would conduct interviews with students by March 2012. Pending an assessment of that visit, an outcome recommendation could be an extension of approval beyond June 30, 2013. Unfortunately, Jim Craiglow was not able to arrange interviews with students due to his increased workload. This item will be placed on a later agenda.

In the December 1, 2011 Director’s Report, it was reported that **Oregon Institute of Technology**, Klamath Falls, Oregon, was granted administrative approval. This approval was removed as the Institute did not submit payment.

We were advised by legal counsel that we do not have the authority to grant an out-of-state higher education institution administrative approval in order for it to register its recruiters and/or faculty with the Secretary of State. The following institutions were advised of this fact:

- **Academy of Arts University** – San Francisco, CA, accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Faculty resides in NH
- **American Public University** – Charles Town, WV, accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools – Faculty resides in NH

- **Baker College** – Flint, MI – accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools – Faculty resides in NH
- **Bellevue University** – Bellevue, NE – accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools – Faculty resides in NH
- **Grantham University** – Kansas City, MO – accredited by Distance Education and Training Council – Faculty resides in NH
- **MGH Institute of Health Professions, Inc.** – Boston, MA – accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges – Faculty resides in NH
- **WyoTech** – Laramie, Wyoming - accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges – Recruiters reside in NH

These institutions are allowed to register with the Secretary of State in order to pay employees, but papers will indicate that the institution does not have approval from the Commission to grant degrees in N.H.

Closed School Transcripts

As of April 30, 2012 (FY 2012), we have processed 610 transcripts, generating \$11,720 in revenue, compared to 645 transcripts processed and \$12,900 collected as of April 30, 2011 (FY 2011).

Research and Studies

Submitted by Amy Slattery

See attached *Recent Research Studies and Articles*

In addition, be reminded that our standard data reports remain available on the New Hampshire Department of Education website (www.education.nh.gov/highered). The reports include U.S. Department of Education data regarding New Hampshire degree-granting institutions' completions, enrollment, tuition and fees and degrees awarded.

Financial Aid

Submitted by Amy Slattery

The application review process for the 2012-2013 Tuition Waivers for Foster Children is underway, in cooperation with the Division of Children, Youth and Families. In July, final determinations will be made and students will be notified of their status for the upcoming academic year.

Three students have applied and will be eligible for the Scholarship for Orphans of Veterans, upon enrollment verification from each student's institution in August. Each student receives \$2,500.00 and there is a \$10,000.00 annual budget available for the program.

The Division continues to receive and collect repayment monies to the Workforce Incentive Program, Veterinary/Medical/Optometric Program, Paul Douglas Teacher Program, and NH Incentive Program.

The Division continues to collaborate with New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families on the Tuition Waiver for Children in State Foster Care or Guardianship, as well as financial aid administrators at New Hampshire institutions.

The Division continues to work with the New Hampshire Treasurer's Office in collecting and reporting data on behalf of the New Hampshire College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Commission. The data includes New Hampshire resident enrollment at participating institutions, annual scholarship allocation and endowment fund disbursements.

Veterans Education Services
Submitted by Clifton Burdette

Current Activities

Since our last Commission meeting, Veterans Education Services has been quite busy. This two-person function continues to operate with only one staff person.

- Commissioner Barry asked for a report detailing the increase in veterans and eligible persons attending institutions of higher Learning (IHL's) and non-college degree (NCD's) schools as a result of recent changes to the GI Bill. The report was completed. The result is that the number of veterans and other persons using GI Bill educational benefits tripled from 754 in December 2009 to 2,147 in December 2011. The number of schools (IHL's and NCD's) being attended increased from 49 to 68. A complete copy of the report is available for review.
- The Federal Fiscal Year 2012 contract between the Department of Education and the Veterans Administration (VA) for the Veterans Education Services is completed and in the hands of the VA for their final review and signature. Completing the budgetary portion of the contract took a lot of help from the Department's budgetary staff.

As noted in the December 2011 Director's Report, the primary function of Veterans Education Services changed from program approval to conducting compliance surveys at our training locations. Compliance surveys ensure the student are participating in courses that are appropriate for their degree plan and to follow the money trail from the school to the VA and back to the school or student as appropriate. The goal is to ensure there are no overpayment or underpayment situations. Compliance surveys for public and not-for-profit schools are conducted once every three years. Annual compliance surveys are conducted at all for-profit schools and schools with more than 300 veterans enrolled. Compliance surveys at IHL's take two days, on average, to complete and as much as five days would be planned when conducting a compliance survey at UNH in Durham. It takes one-day for a compliance survey at most NCD's, apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs.

- I've visited the following schools for compliance surveys:
 - Hesser College – Concord, Manchester, Nashua, Portsmouth and Salem campuses
 - NH Police Standards and Training Council – Concord
 - Manchester Police Department – Manchester
 - Keene Police Department – Keene
 - Empire Beauty School – Portsmouth Center for a Compliance Survey of all their centers.
 - New England Heavy Construction Academy – Brentwood
 - Next Era Energy in Seabrook for a Compliance Survey
 - Hypertherm Inc. in Lebanon for a Compliance Survey
- Other visits are made to conduct program approval, outreach activities and provide technical assistance. Those visits were:
 - Interstate Electric to train School Certifying Official and assist in document preparation to enroll a veteran in their Apprenticeship Program

- EPTAC Corporation to approve the training school and 24 different training programs
- Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 131 to review the program and to train the new School Certifying Official
- Stonemakers Corporation to assist in completing documents for program approval
- Transition Assistance Presentation at Portsmouth Naval Yard in Kittery, Maine to discuss the GI Bill availability to persons preparing to exit the Navy
- NH Police Training Academy in Concord to discuss Veterans Educational Benefits with veterans attending the Academy
- Hooksett Police Department to work with a new Certifying Official to enroll an officer in his On-the-Job training program
- Quirk Volkswagen in Manchester to work with the Certifying Official and dependent to get paperwork correct so the dependent can get paid for her apprenticeship program
- Dublin School to assist in document preparation to approve the school and their diploma program
- Other topics of interest are:
 - I had a two-day Site Inspection from the VA Central Office in Washington DC. The VA was represented by Mr. Joe Preisser (Contract Management Officer) and Janice Fisher (Contract Management Team Leader). The visit was basically an inspection/audit to see how we perform all our contractual requirements. I believe that the inspection came out well. They did not mention any glaring errors. Since this was their first site visit since states started doing Compliance Surveys, they took copies of many of the reports I've done. They seemed to like how they were done.
 - The folks from the VA seemed quite interested in problems associated with New Horizons Computer Learning Center. The VA reps took a copy of the letter I sent to suspend their programs so no veterans or eligible beneficiaries can take classes there. I shared with them problems we, in New Hampshire, encountered with them and provided an email that I received from a State Approving Agency in Texas that was also encountering problems. Their problems sound very similar to what I and the folks in Career School Licensing are having with New Horizons in that the problems seem to revolve around the corporate offices.
 - My VA security clearance came through and I can now get into VA data systems for preparation for compliance surveys. I no longer have to travel to Togus Maine to do that. I can also locate information about students to help resolve problems.
 - I completed all invoices from October through March and sent them to the VA so they can be processed and paid. As soon as the contract is finally signed at the VA Central Office, we should start seeing payments.
 - I've had lots of communication with schools to resolve problems they may be having. These may be Colleges and Universities, Non-Degree Granting Schools, Apprenticeships and OJT programs.

Career School Licensing

Submitted by Kimberly Kenneally

Current Activities

Since our last Commission meeting, the Career School Licensing function has continued its performance as required of RSA 188-G:1-10 by bringing unlicensed schools into compliance, reviewing renewal applications, and investigation complaints.

- One of our accomplishments was the release of refund money to The First Choice Training Institute students on March 26, 2012. Nineteen (19) students were entitled to a full or partial refund. We would like to thank Susan Folsom, from The Office of Business Management at the Department of Education and Philip Bradley with the Department of Justice, for their generous time and effort in helping with this great undertaking.
- We are in the process of licensing two new schools in New Hampshire:
 - (1) Infrared Training Center of Nashua. The school demonstrates an in-depth understanding of infrared cameras. Their applicants are from the research and development industry, military, or commercial professionals all wishing to enhance their credibility in all aspects of the thermography imaging business.
 - (2) Construction Education Academy, located in Hooksett. They aspire to teaching a rewarding educational experience to contract professionals and future contract professionals through real world construction experience. Some of the classes include, Advanced Construction Mathematics, Advanced Construction Surveying, and Advanced CADD Drawing.
- Site visits were performed at the following schools:
 - Online Consulting/ONLC Training Center – two sites, Londonderry and Bedford
 - Rand World Wide Subsidiary – Bedford
 - Hearts and Minds – Bedford
 - Jan Waldo's Dog Grooming – Hooksett
 - Southern NH Health Education – Raymond
- The following schools are in non-compliance:
 - Atlantic Green Energy in Seabrook, NH: Owner George Hurley
 - New Hampshire Bartending School in Hudson, NH: Owner Margaret De Vito
 - New Horizon's Computer Learning Center in Nashua, NH: Contact person Steve Appleby
 - Visible Edge, Inc. in Nashua, NH: Owner Mark Harwood
- As of May 3, 2012 Career School Licensing has eighty five (85) licensed schools.

***College Access Challenge Grant Program
Submitted by Amy Slattery***

The College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) partners continue to meet on a monthly basis to share updates on program progress, as well as discussion on opportunities for collaboration. Recent meetings have included attendees Commissioner Barry, State Senator Nancy Stiles and a presentation by the New Hampshire College and University Council's New Hampshire Scholars Initiative promotional video.

The Program is nearing the completion of its second year of its five-year funding period. An Annual Performance Report on program activities and expenditures will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education this month and the grant application is due in early June. While the state continues to meet its Maintenance of Effort (MOE) federal statutory obligations for the coming 2012-2013 grant period, challenges will exist in future years, unless state appropriations to both public institutions and student financial aid are restored.