

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

May 16, 2013

MEMORANDUM

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

S.B. 4 – establishing a scholarship program for New Hampshire residents to attend any New Hampshire public postsecondary education institution. [aka MOOSE Program] This has been tabled by the Senate Finance Committee and will likely be discussed again as the budget is developed.

S.B. 18 – conferring degree-granting authority to the American University of Madaba. Passed by the Senate. Passed by the House Education Committee and sent forward to be on the House consent calendar.

S.B. 134 – relative to the division of higher education and the higher education commission. Senate Health, Education and Human Services - Passed by the Senate. Heard and passed by the House Education Committee. It now goes to House Finance for review. Director is currently working with Senator Stiles and Representative Gile to make sure that all amendments are included regarding the career schools.

S.B. 162 – relative to licensing of postsecondary career schools. Passed by the Senate and approved by the House Education Committee. Is now before the House Finance Committee.

H.B. 519 – requiring the division of higher education to develop a policy on academic credit for a student's military occupation, military training, coursework, and experience. Passed by the Senate. Not yet heard in the House.

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

I attended the New England Board of Higher Education Annual Meeting on March 8-9, 2013.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

A national conference was held in Indianapolis with nearly all states participating. New Hampshire was represented by the University System and Southern New Hampshire University. Dr. Kathryn Dodge and Dr. Michael Thomas of NEBHE represented New England. There will be a report on the outcome of the meeting and a summary of anticipated actions discussed at the May meeting of the Commission.

In-State

Administrative approval was granted to **Hesser College** to change its Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Concentration in Accounting and the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Concentration in Business Administration to a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Following a February 2011 site visit review that Jim Craiglow chaired, the Commission voted to award degree-granting authority to **New England College** to offer the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in Educational Leadership through December 31, 2015. The Commission Review Team also recommended a Commission site visit in the spring of 2013 to assess the progress of the doctoral program. Following Commission approval, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) established a site visit, also in the spring of 2013, to review and assess the growth and development of the Ed.D. Rather than conduct two separate review visits, it was determined that the NEASC would conduct the site review, with Commission participation via observation. The NEASC review took place May 1-3, 2013. Jim observed for a full day on May 2, 2013. During his participation, he had the opportunity to spend meeting time with President Perkins, the VPAA, the Ed.D. program director, CFO, student services personnel, the director of admission, members of the faculty, library staff, and the head of the Department of Graduate and Professional Studies. In addition, he was able to review all relevant written materials – progress report to NEASC, course syllabi, faculty vitae, etc. We now await the report from NEASC regarding the program.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) held a focused evaluation site visit to **The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts** on March 10-13, 2013. The team consisted of Sr. Jane Gerety, President, Salve Regina University, Team Chair and Mr. Christian McCarthy, Executive Vice President & Treasurer, Assumption College. Director Gustafson attended as an observer.

The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts is accredited by the NEASC and has the Higher Education Commission approval to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts without a terminal date, but with the requirement that it submit all materials to/from the NEASC.

The NEASC focused evaluation was for the purpose of examining the outcomes of their strategic planning process, the status of their most recent fiscal audit and financial operations for the current fiscal year, and an update on the College's success in renegotiating a major loan. The College is currently under a NEASC formal "Notice of Concern" that the institution is in danger of not meeting the standard on Financial Resources.

The team met with Dr. William Fahey, President, Mr. Pat Monaghan, Chairman of the Board, Mr. Clint Hanson, VP for Administration & Finance and Mr. Charles McKinney, VP for Institutional Advancement,

to review the status of the strategic plan (completed), the current financial picture for the fiscal year (planning to operate with a small surplus), and the status of the major loan. The loan was in the final stages of being renegotiated and the NEASC visiting team agreed to hold its report to learn of the outcome of this effort. There was considerable discussion regarding the College's long range plans to relocate to a site in Groton, MA. The College has received a gift of 35 acres of land with a house and associated buildings, formerly an equestrian center. The College currently rents out the house and the barns. The plan to move the College to this site is at least a decade away. The College admissions staff reports a strong outlook for enrollment in the fall of 2013. Current enrollment is 94 students with an expected enrollment of slightly more than 100 for next year. Capacity at the Merrimack campus is in the 150 – 160 range and a break even budget would require an enrollment of 110 – 115 students. The visiting team was impressed with the competence and commitment of the management team. The tone on campus from the students and staff was quite positive. We await the Evaluation Team's report and the decision of the NEASC regarding the accreditation status of The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts. We await the NEASC report on the Thomas Moore visit.

We are in receipt of the required Quality Assurance Report to the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs from **Southern New Hampshire University** for its Ph.D. in Community Economic Development and D.B.A. in International Business.

The University of New Hampshire School of Law was reviewed by the Legal Education section of the American Bar Association in April, 2013 with regard to the continued process of integration into the University of New Hampshire. Since August, 2010, the University of New Hampshire and the Franklin Pierce Law Center have been operating under an American Bar Association (ABA) and an NEASC approved Affiliation Agreement. The next and final step in the process is termed an Integration Agreement, which would become effective in January, 2013.

The ABA review is to ascertain that the eventual integration will not have any negative effect on the law school's ability to meet the ABA accreditation standards and, therefore, the accreditation status of the law school will continue uninterrupted. The term the ABA uses for this process is the "granting of acquiescence."

The ABA reviewer's factual report will be filed with the ABA Accreditation Committee in June. The Committee then prepares a recommendation for the ABA Accreditation Council, which will consider the matter at its meeting in September, 2013.

At that time, the UNH School of Law, NEASC and the NH Higher Education Commission will learn of the decision of the ABA Accreditation Council.

The NEASC has scheduled the following activity:

New England College – Spring of 2014

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:

3-14-13 – The George Washington University, Washington, DC - accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education – the Master of Public Health until June 30, 2016.

4-15-13 – Northeastern University – Boston, MA – accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges – the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- M.S. – Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (Adult-Gerontology)
- M.S. – Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (Pediatric)
- M.S. – Direct Entry Nursing
- M.S. – Neonatal Nurse
- M.S./CRNA – Nurse Anesthesia
- M.S. – Physician Assistant
- M.S. – Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (Adult)
- M.S. – Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (Family)
- M.S. – Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (Pediatric)
- M.S. – Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing
- M.S. – Speech Language Pathology
- B.S. – Nursing
- RN to BSN On-Line – Nursing
- M.S. – Nursing Administration
- M.S./Master of Business Administration – Nursing Administration
- Doctorate (AuD) - Audiology
- Doctor (PharmD) – Pharmacology
- Entry Level Doctor (DPT) – Physical Therapy

4-15-13 – Walden University – Baltimore, MD – accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association – the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- M.S. in Clinical Psychology
- M.S. in Forensic Psychology
- M.S. in Mental Health Counseling
- M.S. in School Counseling
- M.S. in Addictions Counseling
- M.S. in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling
- M.S. in Career Counseling
- Master of Social Work
- Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision
- Doctor of Nurse Practice Program
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Master of Public Health
- M.S. in Health Informatics
- Master of Healthcare Administration
- M.S. in Clinical Research Administration
- Ed.S. in Educational Leadership and Administration – Principal Preparation Program
- Master of Arts in Teaching – Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 3)
- Special Education Endorsement Program
- B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies
- Post Baccalaureate Doctor (DPT) – Physical Therapy

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 Anna Maria College was granted a letter to allow it to register with Secretary of State in order to pay taxes.

We are in receipt of the **MCPHS University's** request to the Accreditation Review Commission on the Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. for approval to expand the number of students matriculating into its School of Physician Assistant Studies – Manchester/Worcester. This request is to increase the class size from the currently approved 30, to a maximum of 70, to total 100 students per class at each site. This would be effective January of 2014. We await the ARCPA response.

Closed School Transcripts

FY 2013 - as of April 30, 2013, we have processed 548 college/university transcripts @ \$20.00 = \$10,960 and 136 career school transcripts @ \$10.00 = \$1,360

FY 2012 - as of April 30, 2012, we processed 652 college/university transcripts @ \$20.00 = \$13,040 and 99 career schools @ \$10.00 = \$990.

COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

Submitted by Amy Slattery

College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP) work continues to progress and nears the end of its third year of funding in August 2013. Grant partners convene monthly to discuss project status updates and collaborative efforts. Many annual program capstone events are taking place this spring.

I attended the annual CACGP Conference in Washington, D.C. organized by the U.S. Department of Education. The conference focused on national best practices for the CACGP, federal grant compliance and updates from the Department's leadership on nationwide college access policy initiatives.

With collaborative efforts from grant partners, the Division of Higher Education submitted to the U.S. Department of Education its Annual Performance Report (APR) on the CACGP outcomes and project highlights for the period of April 2012-April 2013. Additionally, as part of the APR, a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Waiver was requested by N.H., with correspondence detailing N.H.'s fiscal activity related to higher education funding. A decision on the state's waiver request is expected late summer or early fall.

The Division will complete and submit the CACGP Grant Application in late June for consideration for future funding.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Amy Slattery

As the state's lead coordinator for the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Data System (IPEDS), a member of Division staff attended the annual IPEDS Coordinator Workshop and State Data Conference in Washington, D.C. April 2-5. Conference topics included updates on IPEDS data collection tools, increased focus on tracking G.I. Bill recipients, community college transfers, admissions data and distance learners, along with several other data indicators. Concurrent breakout sessions took place on state longitudinal data systems and best practices, as well as policy updates at the national level. Each year, the conference provides our state's representatives the opportunity to engage in a robust discussion with our colleagues from all 50 states and territories about data collection and analysis in higher education.

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).

FINANCIAL AID

Submitted by Amy Slattery

The Commission continues to receive and collect repayment monies to the Workforce Incentive Program, Veterinary/Medical/Optomeric Program and NH Incentive Program. After nearly two decades, repayments are nearly complete for the Paul Douglas Teacher Program.

Regardless of legislative rule changes, throughout this spring, the Commission will collaborate with the Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) on the intake and review of applications for the Tuition Waiver for Children in State Foster Care or Guardianship Program. Further, the Commission continues to receive a steady pool of eligible applicants for the Scholarships for Orphans of Veterans and the awards will be finalized in the summer months.

Financial reporting and data collection are ongoing with the State Treasurer's Office for the purposes of the UNIQUE annual and endowment funds.

Career School Licensing
Submitted by Kimberly Kenneally

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

As of May 2, 2013:

- There are eighty two (82) licensed career schools in New Hampshire
- The office currently has 33 renewal applications ready for review
- Universal Media Institute closed their doors to pursue a new partnership in education.
- I traveled to Sacramento, CA on April 21st through the 24th for a conference with The National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS). This was a highly informative four days of seminars, regarding the ongoing process of regulating postsecondary schools throughout the United States of America.
- This office has been working diligently on the revision of Hedc 300 Rules.
- Visible Edge of Nashua has been notified of their incomplete application.
- One school has been referred to the New Hampshire Department of Justice: Config Systems, Incorporated, owner Dan Kadle, Keene, NH.

VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES

Submitted by James A. Margeson IV

On Friday April 5, 2013, I started as the Veterans Education Services Representative for the Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission. Below are the activities that were conducted by the Veterans Education Services program during the month of April 2013.

On the Job Training & Apprenticeships:

- *Gorham Police Department*- 1 OJT approved
- *Nashua Police Department*- 2 OJTs approved
- *Piquette & Howard Electric*- 1 Apprenticeship approved

Career Schools:

- *New Horizons, Nashua*- Visited for company to be approved for Veterans Program, still waiting on them to get all paperwork back to me.
- *Granite State EMS*- Approved school for the Veterans Education Program
- *Salter School of Nursing*- Compliance Visit
- *VTEC*- Visit to add programs to the Veterans Program
- *Michael's School of Hair Design*- Compliance Visit
- *Harmony Health Care Institute*- Compliance Visit

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