

**Item No. 7**

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

**May 19, 2020, Commission Meeting**

**Director's Report**

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

No attendance at out-of-state meetings.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER**

Nothing to report.

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY**

**In-State Colleges and Universities:**

**Magdalen College:** The College is in the early planning stages for a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program based on the “great books” curriculum. The planning timeline has been extended given the Covid-19 circumstances.

**New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Activity:**

**Colby-Sawyer College:** At the February 11, 2020 meeting, the Commission approved Colby-Sawyer College to offer an Associate of Science in Health Science.

This was configured as a 1+1 program and partnered with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH). Leveraging its long-standing affiliation with D-HH, it planned to accept courses taught through their Workforce Readiness Institute to completion of a Medical Assistant (MA), Pharmacy Technician (PT), or Surgical Technologist (ST) certification. Its proposal indicated it would transfer in those course credits and matriculate the students into the College to complete Liberal Education courses and credits necessary to the attainment of a Colby-Sawyer College Associate degree.

Upon approval by the Commission, the program proposal draft was submitted to the NECHE for review. The NECHE required the courses taught in the core program at D-HH must be taught by Colby-Sawyer College faculty, and that those faculty must be oriented and assessed just as any other Colby-Sawyer College adjunct would be.

Therefore, the final proposal to the NECHE for the Associate of Science degree in Health Science, which was approved at their April 2020 meeting, changed the program from that approved by the Commission in the following ways:

- The staff instructing the MA/PT/ST courses located at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center will be hired as adjunct faculty by Colby-Sawyer College;
- The newly hired faculty will jointly work for D-HH and Colby-Sawyer College, and as such will be oriented and assessed by Colby-Sawyer College through the various systems and resources used to train and assess all adjunct faculty.

In addition, approval was granted by the NECHE for D-HH to become an additional instruction location for Colby-Sawyer College as part of the substantive change proposal.

Students in the MA/PT/ST programs who wish to continue to an Associate of Science degree will be matriculated into Colby-Sawyer College at the time of admittance to the program.

**Franklin Pierce University:** The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) conducted a Comprehensive Evaluation in November 2018. In April 2019, the NECHE informed the University that it remained in continued accreditation and scheduled the next comprehensive evaluation visit for fall 2028, with the usual Fifth-Year Report due in the fall of 2023. In addition, the NECHE report required a focused progress report for the spring of 2020 addressing:

1. Achieving enrollment and retention goals and maintaining financial stability, including a sustainable tuition discount rate; and
2. Addressing the issues that led ARC-PA to place the institution's Physician Assistant Program on probation.

The University filed its progress report, along with F&E Data Forms, audited financial statements, and an accreditation letter from ARC-PA with NECHE in March 2019.

In response to **Focus Area 1:** The University noted that it has completed a substantial academic reorganization giving greater clarity, coherence, and support to its undergraduate and graduate programs, institutional and program assessment, and new initiatives in professional programs and partnerships. A three-year strategic plan has been completed which includes finances, marketing/branding initiatives, program enhancements, campus capital improvements, and technology improvements. Enrollment and retention challenges remain, but expectations are realistic and retention has improved. Several initiatives have been launched to achieve enrollment and retention goals. The discount rate is tracked closely to tuition revenues and expected net tuition levels. The University has achieved positive operating surpluses since 2014 and has had success in raising funds for endowed scholarships and capital projects. The University has not needed to utilize its available line of credit since January 2015 and has a USDE financial responsibility score of 2.85.

In response to **Focus Area 2:** The ARC-PA conducted a site visit in June 2019 to review progress on previously noted areas of non-compliance in the Physician Assistant Program. The review was quite positive. The ARC-PA notified the University in September 2019 that its Physician Assistant Program was granted Continued Status for its accreditation with zero (0) areas of non-compliance. The ARC-PA extended the time between reviews from 7 to 10 years and scheduled the next comprehensive review for September 2027.

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

**College of Holy Cross:** Dr. Daniel Klinghard, Professor of Political Science and Director of the J.D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA reported on his successful “J-mester” intensive learning course, “The New Hampshire Primary.” Eleven students were based at the Doubletree Inn in Manchester for the December 27, 2019 – January 20, 2020 course. Students, 3 males, and 8 females were from all four classes, a variety of majors, and were from MA, as well as CA, CO, TX, and WA. They attended a seminar each morning, then interned with the Biden, Buttigieg, Sanders, and Warren campaigns in the afternoons/evenings. Student evaluations were uniformly positive, with minor negatives noted about some logistics and limited supervision on some campaign activities. “Academically rigorous and physically demanding” was representative of the feedback from students.

**Vermont Technical College:** A collaboration between Vermont Technical College (VTC) and the Glenclyff Home in north-central NH to offer a one year, 47 credit Practical Nursing Certificate Program was approved by the Commission at its October 8, 2019 meeting. The approval, through June 30, 2022, was with the condition that several organizational and program matters be addressed before implementation, and progress reports were filed on December 31, 2020, and a site visit be scheduled for April 2021.

The VTC filed its report on those conditions on March 31, 2020. A conference call to follow-up on the report was held on April 15, 2020. The Commission’s conditions were met, although the launch planned for September 2020 may be postponed until September 2021 if Covid-19 restrictions, the NH State hiring freeze, and approval by the NH Board of Nursing delay implementation. With respect to the conditions:

1. A New Hampshire job classification and supplemental job description for the Glenclyff nurse educator has been completed, and a properly credentialed nurse educator has been retained. Bringing this individual onto the Glenclyff payroll will be contingent upon NH personnel office approval during this time of a hiring freeze. The nurse educator will be jointly employed by VTC and Glenclyff.
2. Letters of commitment have been obtained from affiliated agencies to provide clinical and student learning experiences. The use of online virtual clinical scenarios, case studies, and simulation laboratories have been approved by the VT Board of Nursing and the accrediting association, CNEA, during the Covid-19 restrictions.
3. Budget figures for the nurse educator/instructor, administrative support, benefits, and operational expenses have been prepared. These costs, totaling \$111,175, will be borne by the Glenclyff Home. Other instructional, administrative, and support costs borne by VTC are imbedded in its already operating state-wide Practical Nurse Certificate program that currently serves 180 students. The plan calls for a cohort of 8 students; 4 from the Glenclyff Home and 4 recruited from the area population. The Glenclyff students would enroll tuition-free as an offset to the program costs borne by Glenclyff. The other 4 students would each pay the annual program fee of \$23,595 to VTC.
4. Internet WI-FI service and related technology for students have been installed at the Glenclyff Home.

5. The MOU defining the VTC/Glencliff Home relationship has been updated and signed. The VTC/Glencliff program director was reminded of the importance of completing the December 31, 2020 report on the status of the program at that time.

**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.

**California State University** (Sacramento, CA), accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Administration until June 30, 2022. The University's programs in this area are also nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions. The University plans to have one student who will be doing an internship in New Hampshire this year.

Approvals for the following out-of-state institutions expire June 30, 2020 and we await re-applications:

California State University, Northridge

- \*M.S. in Communicative Disorders
- \*Master of Social Work
- \*Master of Public Health

Pepperdine University

- \*M.A. in Clinical Psychology with an Emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy
- \*M.S. in Behavioral Psychology

Walden University

- \*M.S. in Clinical Psychology
- \*M.S. in Forensic Psychology
- \*M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- \*M.S. in School Counseling
- \*M.S. in Addiction Counseling
- \*M.S. in Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling
- \*Bachelor of Social Work
- \*Master of Social Work
- \*Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision
- \*Doctor of Nurse Practice
- \*M.S. in Nursing (Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner)
- \*M.S. in Nursing (Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner)
- \*M.S. in Nursing (Nursing Ed)
- \*M.S. in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner)
- \*M.S. in Nursing (Leadership and Management)
- \*M.S. in Nursing (Nursing Informatics)
- \*M.S. in Nursing (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner)
- \*Master of Public Health
- \*B.S. in Elementary Education

- \*M.S. in Education (Educational Leadership and Administration – Principal Preparation)
- \*Ed.S. in Educational Leadership and Administration (Principal Preparation Program)
- \*M.A. in Teaching (Special Education K-21)
- \*M.S. in Education (Reading and Literacy with a Reading K-12 Endorsement)

### **International Colleges and Universities:**

**American University of Madaba:** The Commission is in receipt of the required Annual Report for 2019 due prior to March 1, 2020. The report was complete with a number of documenting appendices. It submitted its updated Eligibility Report to the New England Commission of Higher Education in January 2020 and a site visit is scheduled for June 2020. This visit was subsequently postponed to March 2021 due to the Covid-19 health-risk situation. At its February 2020 meeting, the Commission approved degree programs through December 31, 2023, based upon the recommendations of a New Hampshire team site visit in October 2019 and on the continued progress that it has made toward accreditation.

Highlights of the 2019 Annual Report include continued steady enrollments (1,379) with 375 new students admitted and 331 graduated. Students are enrolled from 16 countries with 75% of the students coming from Jordan. Student recruitment has been enhanced, but enrollment growth remains a challenge as the Jordanian government has increased the number of students it can accommodate in its public institutions. Enrollments in Pharmacy, Business Administration, and Risk Management are the strongest, and Jordan's Accreditation & Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutes (AQACHEI) has authorized increased enrollments in Pharmacy. The AQACHEI conducted reviews of academic programs, program study plans, faculty qualifications, and library and laboratory resources in 2019. Learning outcomes are present for all majors. Student retention and four-year graduation rates have been mixed. The University has 97 full-time faculty.

Student government elections are scheduled for November 2020, the final design for the library/theatre/lecture halls/study areas is complete and the sponsor is raising funds for the project. Strategic planning is underway using the classic "Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat" (SWOT) analysis approach. Internal and institutional governance and related policies and procedures are in place.

Financial performance is steady with a balanced budget of \$10,437,000. The independent audit for the 2019 calendar year will be sent to the Commission when finished. The University maintains its New Hampshire office with the New Hampshire College and University Council at 3 Barrell Court in Concord.

### **CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS**

From July 1, 2019 until April 30, 2020 (FY 2020), 1,803 college/university transcripts and 57 career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$37,200.00**. During the same period in the prior year (FY 2019), a total of 2,313 college/university transcripts and 65 career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$47,560.00**.

## **RESEARCH AND STUDIES**

**Submitted by Jan Fiderio**

Research and Studies related activities completed this quarter include:

- Fulfillment of miscellaneous research requests including NC-SARA enrollments.

Please review “Director’s Report: Spring 2020 Research and News” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attachment).

Top issues noted in the report this quarter:

- Covid-19
- New Title IX Rules
- Local College News

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

Attended the 2020 IPEDS Coordinator Workshop and State Data Conference training virtually on May 5 in the role of the State of New Hampshire’s official IPEDS Coordinator.

The Spring IPEDS survey deadlines – April 22 for all NH nonprofit colleges and career schools and May 6 for all NH public 4-year and 2-year institutions – were more challenging to meet this year due to Covid-19. Career schools, in particular, struggled to complete the surveys and four of those schools have been granted extensions. This is very unusual. All NH nonprofit colleges and NH public 4-year and 2-year institutions completed the surveys on time. The required surveys included: Fall Enrollment, Finance, Human Resources, and Academic Libraries.

## **OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOLS LICENSING (OCSL)**

**Submitted by Katelyn Komisarek**

Correspondence between the OCSL and career schools has been challenging due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Restrictions on gatherings causing some schools to close temporarily and others to shift to remote distance learning, while a few career schools have stayed open practicing social distancing and gathering of no more than 10 people at a time. We have facilitated this by assisting and advising schools when they have needed help. We have temporarily canceled all onsite visits.

This fall, the OCSL will seek to review the revised statutes and rules, forms, and guidelines. Below are some of the activities conducted by the OCSL team since the last Commission meeting in February 2020.

*Completed site visits to the following schools:*

- Sig Sauer Academy
- American Academy of Health and Beauty

*Renewed the licenses of the following schools:*

- American Academy of Health and Beauty
- Lamprey Health Care
- Med Pro Educational Services

*Currently reviewing license renewal/annual filing applications for the following schools:*

- IMAGINiT Technologies
- Northeast Collaborative School of Dental Assisting
- Arvigo Institute, The
- Sig Sauer Academy
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- All Dogs Academy
- New Hampshire School of Mechanical Trades, The
- FLIR Infrared Training
- CAD Technical
- NBI, Inc.
- Birthwise Midwifery
- CALCampus
- Unique System Skills

*Processing the closing of the following schools:*

- NTI Organic Lawn Care (Lawn Care)
- Durkee Personnel (Computer Software Skills)

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

**VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES (VES)**

**Submitted by Jeffrey S. Newman**

Veterans Education Services (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®.

The current circumstances of the pandemic have restricted in-person visits and outreach as institutions shift modalities from in-person training to distance learning. We have adapted by conducting remote visits within VA guidelines.

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

- Worked with New Hampshire Military Leadership Team and Justice-Involved Task Force to work to improve the status of statewide veterans programs, initiatives, and dispersal of funds;

- Conducted compliance survey visits to 5 facilities: River Valley Community College, Nashua Community College, UNH Manchester, American Red Cross, and Magdalen College;
- Conducted 1 new facility site visit to Daniels Electric, Inc., Guilford, NH;
- Conducted 1 new facility remote site approval for the Rochester Police Department; and
- Provided 306 program approvals and withdrawals at the request of school certifying officials.

### **Students Receiving VA Educational Benefits within New Hampshire:**

#### 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
- St. 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
- NH Department of Safety - 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 the Veterans Benefits Administration Facilities Count Report for New Hampshire, November 2019. Current numbers may vary.

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

**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

We are tracking numerous bills with potential implications for the postsecondary education community. With the NH Legislature shut down due to the pandemic, there has been no activity. The following lists the most relevant bills:

HB 1236	Relative to the expectation of privacy.
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 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. <b>ALL INSTITUTIONS</b>
HB 1582	Providing free tuition at colleges and universities for children of veterans who are totally and permanently disabled. <b>PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>
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. <b>ALL INSTITUTIONS</b>
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 NH. 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)