

**NH Department of Education  
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission  
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September 27, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**Commission Wide**

**Staff Development/Office Issues/Other**

New director's Announcement can be found at <http://www.education.nh.gov/news/higher-ed-director.htm>

As reported at the May 10, 2012 meeting, the Private Postsecondary Career Schools is now the responsibility of the Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning, Bureau of Career Development.

The Higher Education Commission now has six (6) program components: (1) The Higher Education Office funded by General Funds; (2) the College & University Program Review component funded by program review fees from the institutions; (3) Closed School Transcript component funded by fees from individuals seeking transcripts; (4) the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) funded by the U.S. Department of Education; (5) the Veterans Education Services funded by the U.S. Veterans Administration; (6) Financial Aid – collection of monies and a small program entitled, "Scholarship for Orphans of Veterans."

The Higher Education Office has begun the process of developing its FY 2014/2015 biennial budget request as a component of the N.H. Department of Education. At this time, we are proposing essentially flat funding, with the exception that we seek the restoration of the N.H. Incentive Program at \$3,500,000 with a single position to support this program.

**Report of Out-of-State Meetings**

The Director met with Dr. Barbara Brittingham, Executive Director of New England Association of Schools and Colleges' Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC/CIHE), to discuss a wide range of topics associated with higher education in New Hampshire, details on the upcoming NEASC/CIHE visits to New Hampshire institutions and the coordination of responsibilities where both NEASC/CIHE and the Higher Education Commission are working with a given institution in the same year.

## **College and University Activity**

### **In-State**

**Colby-Sawyer College** forwarded required materials to/from the NEASC concerning its request to establish electronically offered certificate programs, a substantive change. The NEASC accepted this request for distance education programming to be included within the institution's accreditation, with an effective date of April 19, 2012. The NEASC required that the self-study prepared in advance of the spring, 2015 visit, include an update on the College's progress in assessing online student learning outcomes.

We received notification from the president of **Hellenic American University** that Triant Flouris, who served as Interim Provost, was appointed as Provost. Chris Spirou has stepped aside as president, but will still be on the Board and Leonidas Koskos has been appointed interim president as the Board searches for a permanent successor.

Meetings have been held with **Chester College of New England** president, Robert Baines, and others to remain current on activities associated with the closing of the College. All elements of the process are proceeding as planned, including providing pathways for students and faculty, preparing academic records for storage and preservation by the State of New Hampshire, working with the Probate Court on the transfer of charitable assets and the eventual sale of the campus land and buildings.

### **The NEASC has scheduled the following activity:**

The College of Saint Mary Magdalen – Candidate – Spring 2013  
Daniel Webster College – Focused Evaluation – Fall 2012  
Hellenic American University – Comprehensive Evaluation – Fall 2012  
Rivier College – Comprehensive Evaluation – November 11-14, 2012  
Thomas More College of Liberal Arts – Focused Evaluation – Spring 2013

### **Out-of-State**

**Georgetown University** – Washington, DC – accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education – has administrative approval to offer its online Master of Science in Nursing. On June 20, 2012, we received a copy of the Clinical Practicum Agreement with Elliot Health System, One Elliot Way, Manchester, NH.

**Lesley University** informed us that it changed the title of the M.Ed. Technology in Education to the M.Ed. Educational Technology. The title was changed to meet the terminology used by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The **Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences** provided us with an Annual Report for July 2011 – August 2012 to the NH Board of Nursing, including its most recent audited financial statement for FY 2012. The College has approval to offer the Post Baccalaureate Bachelor of Science in Nursing until December 31, 2014. This approval aligns with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation and the NH Board of Nursing approval and requires all materials to/from these entities be forwarded to the Commission.

The **Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences** also provided us with communication from the Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) for its Master of Physician Assistant degree. Approval is without a terminal date and aligned with the ARC-PA which expires September 2014.

The **University of Southern Maine School of Nursing**, Portland, Me, has administrative approval to operate in NH, until June 30, 2015, and offer the online Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing, requiring a clinical. An updated MOU was received between Wentworth-Douglass Hospital and the University of Maine System for clinical placements of students enrolled.

Administrative approval was granted to the following institutions to operate in New Hampshire and offer online degrees that require a practicum/internship:

- **Boise State University** – Boise, ID – accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities – Master of Science in Instructional and Performance Technology and the Doctor of Education in Educational Technology until June 30, 2015.
- **Fitchburg State University** – Fitchburg, MA - accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges - Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Forensic Nursing until June 30, 2014.
- **Lesley University** – Cambridge, MA – accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges – M.Ed. in Effective Teaching until June 30, 2016.
- **University of North Carolina** – Chapel Hill, NC – accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Master of Public Administration until June 30, 2015.
- **University of Southern Maine** – Portland, ME – accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges – Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2015.

#### Closed School Transcripts

Fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)	751 transcript requests processed \$14,435 revenue collected
Fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011)	753 transcript requests processed \$15,060 revenue collected.

Commission staff continues to work with **Chester College of New England** staff to transfer student transcripts upon the closing of the college

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

Governor John Lynch has once again designated the Division of Higher Education at the New Hampshire Department of Education as the lead organization of a coalition that receives \$1.5 million in annual federal funding to increase enrollment in postsecondary education in New Hampshire for students who have graduated from high school within the previous 12 months. The funds are allocated to the state through the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), a program that has been authorized to provide funds to states through 2014. Five grant partners, responsible for eight projects will continue the work of the CACG effort.

The scope of the funded projects fall into three areas: 1) college aspiration - improving access to and familiarity with college planning information for all students and parents, with emphasis on underserved populations; 2) capacity building - making the application process smoother and more accurate for students, secondary, and postsecondary institutions through implementation of an electronic transcript and working with education professionals at both the secondary and postsecondary level to promote not only access to postsecondary education, but success once access is attained; and, 3) academic preparation - increasing the percentage of students who are prepared to complete college level material.

CACG funded projects directly reached more than 143,000 New Hampshire school students, while 300 secondary and postsecondary administrators and officials participated in CACG funded professional development activities aimed at increasing college access.

In order to continue to remain eligible for future CACG funding, a state must demonstrate a consistent level of funding for higher education for the past five fiscal years, per the Department of Education's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) statutory requirements. New Hampshire met such requirements in state fiscal years 2007-2011. As a consequence of reductions in state general funding appropriations in the current biennial budget to public institutions, coupled with the elimination of financial aid programs, the state will not satisfy the MOE requirements for future grant years (funding for 2013 and beyond). The U.S. Secretary of Education has the discretion to issue a waiver to states not meeting the MOE requirements. Unfortunately, without a demonstrated effort by a state to increase appropriations in future budgets to higher education, the Secretary has been unwilling to waive the MOE. With more than 30 states failing to meet the MOE, 20 states applied for waivers, with eight approved, six denied, several pending, along with a number of states foregoing the waiver request all together.

The New Hampshire Department of Education will continue to work with the congressional delegation, state officials, the new governor and legislature on the MOE requirements and a potential waiver request in 2013.

**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](http://www.education.nh.gov/highered)).

**Financial Aid**

**Submitted by Amy Slattery**

Tuition/fee waivers have been granted to 21 eligible students by New Hampshire public institutions for the 2012-2013 Tuition Waivers for Foster Children. The program is a cooperative effort with the Division of Children, Youth and Families.

To date, three students are eligible for the Scholarship for Orphans of Veterans. 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/Optomeric Program, Paul Douglas Teacher Program, and NH Incentive Program.

The Division is working 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 include 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 on May 10, 2012, Veterans Education Services has been quite busy. This two-person function continues to operate with only one staff person.

As noted in previous Director's Reports, the primary function of Veterans Education Services changed from program approval to conducting compliance surveys at our training locations. This does not, however, cease the program approval activity. Veterans Education Services is still responsible for approving programs at for-profit schools and approving OJT and apprenticeship programs that are not already approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

- Since May, I've visited the following schools for compliance surveys:
  - Antioch University in Keene
  - Laird Institute in Manchester
  - Portsmouth Beauty School
  - Harmony Health Care in Merrimack
  - Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover
  
- Other visits made since May to conduct program approval, outreach activities and provide technical assistance:
  - Sig Arms Academy in Epping - approve new programs
  - SOLO in Conway (conducts EMT training in the wilderness)
  - Stonemakers Academy in Manchester
  - Winchester Police Department
  - Nashua Police Department
  - DECCO in Brentwood
  - Artisan Electrical in Dover
  - Intercoast Career Institute in Salem
  - New England Polygraph Institute in Moultonborough
  
- Other topics of interest:
  - I attended a National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA), Mid-Summer Conference in Raleigh NC. A lot of additional information was presented regarding conducting and reporting on Compliance Surveys.
  - I completed the monthly invoices from March through July and the VA has paid them all.
  - I continue to communicate with schools to resolve problems they may be having. These may be colleges and universities, non-degree-granting schools, apprenticeships and OJT programs.