

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

September 30, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Higher Education Commission

From: Edward R. MacKay, Director

Subject: Director's Report

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

In H.B. 1146, the Legislature established a committee to study the feasibility of funding a kindergarten to college/career ready program and a universal college savings account. Representatives from higher education have been advisers to the study committee. As of this date it appears likely a recommendation will be made to establish children's saving accounts, but whether the proposal would utilize "529" plans as the investment vehicle and other critical details such as "seed" amounts and source of funding have not been resolved.

The Division is in the process of forwarding its FY 2016-17 biennial budget requests through the Department of Education for consideration by the Governor. The budget does not seek any substantial increase in funding as the Division was advised it will be a difficult biennium with program reductions for areas supported by General Funds unless there are mandated expenses. However, Commissioner Barry has agreed to propose reinstatement of the \$3 million state student grant program.

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

The State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Annual Meeting was held July 8 -11, 2014 in Boise, ID. The agenda included many informative sessions covering a wide range of topics, including student completion, affordability, Common Core, a multi-state collaborative to advance learning outcomes, accreditation, and State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

The New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) Fall Board Meeting was held September 11-12, 2014 in Stowe, VT. The Director was on a panel discussing college affordability, and the challenges facing New England institutions due to demographic headwinds and the greater proportion of K-12 students qualifying for the free and reduced lunch program.

The New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) hosted a workshop on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 in Burlington, MA to discuss the role of an observer from the respective state agency responsible for higher education and hope was expressed there could be greater collaboration. The discussion centered on the mutual value of such observers to an accreditation-related site visit and the overall

process of accreditation. Unfortunately a request to have reports sent directly from NEASC to these agencies (rather than have institutions forward copies) was denied.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

The recruitment process for filling the vacant Program Specialist III position (formerly held by Amy Slattery) continues. This person will phase out the College Access Challenge Grant Program and assist the Director in support of all Division functions, including other federal grants, policy and planning, research and studies, financial aid, veterans state approvals, college and university activity, career school licensing, and support to the State Treasurer's Office for data analysis relating to the UNIQUE programs.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State:

Closure of the **American College of History & Legal Studies** continues as planned, with several students completing coursework this semester and others transferring to **Mount Washington College** in accordance with an agreement reached between the two institutions.

Daniel Webster College forwarded the required Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment to the NEASC. It also forwarded its report submitted in advance of the NEASC focused evaluation visit scheduled for November 2-4, 2014.

The NEASC considered the report submitted by **Hellenic American University** regarding its instructional location in Manchester, NH and to offer two programs of the institution's choosing from among those existing degree programs. The NEASC accepted the request and included the site within the institution's accreditation. They chose to offer one program, the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics with emphasis on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. An interim report is due in Fall, 2015.

The University also submitted a request to the NH Department of Education's Council for Teacher Education for approval of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics with emphasis on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

InterCoast College & Career Institute was granted approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Substance Abuse Counseling until June 30, 2016. This approval was conditioned on the requirement that a qualified faculty member would be hired before students were enrolled and the institution would provide the Commission with the professional resume of the faculty member(s). The institution was not able to secure qualified faculty and did not offer the degree program. InterCoast Career Institute is also a licensed career school which has made the business decision to close by April, 2015 (see Office of Career School Licensing below) and has submitted the required plan for doing so. Degree-granting approval will lapse for the College concurrent with the closure.

Lebanon College announced its closure and has filed a teach-out plan with the Division. It was gratifying to observe the response by the New Hampshire higher education community to assist students in seamlessly moving forward with their education, and it appears all students have been accommodated in one manner or another.

New England College submitted its response to the favorable site visit report from the NEASC, and is awaiting formal approval of a ten-year accreditation extension scheduled for November.

The agreement to explore a potential merger between **New Hampshire Institute of Art** and **Southern New Hampshire University** has been terminated and the institutions will continue to operate independently for the foreseeable future.

Southern New Hampshire University forwarded the required final report from Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for the B.S. and M.S. in Nursing.

St. John International University submitted some of the information required under NH Rules for an institution that has lost its licensure, but as of this date has not made any payments for amounts due or provided any student transcripts.

NEASC Activity:

As noted above, **Daniel Webster College** will have a focused site visit in November 2014

There are no additional scheduled NEASC site visits for the remainder 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/clinical:

Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ) – Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- Graduate Certificate in an Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching for Grades K-12
- Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction: English as a Second Language
- Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Master of Education in Educational Leadership: Principalship
- Master of Science in the Science of Health Care Delivery
- Doctor of Behavioral Health
- Doctor of Nursing Practice

Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA) – Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- RN-BSN
- MSN Family Nurse Practitioner
- MSN Forensic Nursing
- MSN Nursing Education
- Post-Master’s Certification in Family Nurse Practitioner
- Post-Master’s Certification in Forensic Nursing

Elon University (Greensboro, NC) – Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy until June 30, 2016.

Fisher College (Boston, MA) – Accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Management and Associate of Science in Health Information Technology until June 30, 2016.

Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ) – Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- Master of Arts in Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Master of Arts in Reading with an Emphasis in Elementary Education
- Master of Arts in Reading with an Emphasis in Secondary Education

Jones International University (Centennial, CO) - Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) General Certificate and Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Comprehensive Endorsement until June 30, 2016.

Simmons College (Boston, MA) – Accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, approved to offer the Registered Nurse to Master of Science in Nursing and Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2016.

Troy University (Troy, AL) – Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program until June 30, 2016.

University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH) – Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science
- Master of Science in Nursing – Adult-Gero Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing – Adult-Gero Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing – Nursing Services Administration
- Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Midwifery
- Master of Science in Nursing – Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner

University of Massachusetts Amherst (Hadley, MA) – Accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, approved to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Science in Clinical Nurse Leader until June 30, 2016.

University of San Francisco (San Francisco, CA) – Accredited by WASC-Senior College & University Commission, approved to offer the Master of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2016.

University of Wisconsin-Stout (Cincinnati, OH) – Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2016:

- Bachelor of Science in Career, Technical Education and Training
- Bachelor of Science in Golf Enterprise Management

- Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies
- Master of Science in Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Counseling Concentration
- Professional Science Master's in Conservation Biology
- Certificate in Evaluation Studies
- Certificate in Institutional Research

Closed School Transcripts:

For the current Fiscal Year (2015), as of September 30, 2014, the Division has processed 224 college/university transcripts (\$20 each) and 25 career school transcripts (\$20 each), generating a total of \$4,980.

During the prior Fiscal Year (2014), as of September 30, 2013, the Division processed 191 college/university transcripts (\$20 each) and 28 career school transcripts (\$10 each), generating a total of \$4,100.

COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT (CACG)

Submitted by Director Ed MacKay

The CACG continues to wind down, and no new activity is being undertaken or anticipated.

FINANCIAL AID

Submitted by Patricia L. Moquin

Per RSA 193:19-21, Scholarships for Orphans of Veterans, the Division received and verified seven students eligible for awards. The budgeted amount of \$10,000 will be split equally among the recipients, resulting in a \$1,428 payment to each student.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING

Submitted by Kimberly J. Kenneally

The Office of Career School Licensing continues its performance as required by RSA 188-G:1-10. As of September 24, 2014:

- Adopted, June 16, 2014, the new statutes for career schools changed the definition of "physical presence." Therefore, the Office no longer licenses nine (9) previously active career schools positioned outside the State of New Hampshire.
- The Office is monitoring and tracking complaints by Salter School of Nursing and Allied Health students. Salter may receive permission to renew instruction of their Surgical Technology program once they have achieved specified requirements.
- InterCoast Career Institute has decided to close by April, 2015, and has filed the required plans.
- Currently, there are seventy eight (78) licensed career schools in the State of New Hampshire.
- Twelve (12) renewal applications are pending review.

- Five new schools:
 - Ramsay Media, LLC (Hypnosis) – Paul Ramsey, Somersworth, NH
 - Hospitality Recruiters (Restaurant Chefs) – Adian Konn, Bow, NH
 - OLK12, LLC (Teach the Teacher) - Janet Syed, Manchester, NH
 - Sig Sauer Academy (Firearm & Tactical Defense Classes) – Adam Painchaud , Epping, NH
 - Laird Institution of Spa Therapy (Massage Therapy)– Diane /Jared Laird, Manchester, NH

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Kimberly Kenneally at (603) 271-6443 or by e-mail to 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 June, 2014 through September, 2014.

The Veterans Education Services Office has approved approximately 1,190 programs in Federal FY14 (Oct 2013 to Sept 2014)

On the Job Training & Apprenticeships:

- KB Electric- New Apprenticeship
- Grace Electric- New Apprenticeship
- Derry PD- Compliance Visit
- NH Fish & Game- New OJT
- Bear Electric- New Apprenticeship
- Boscawen PD- New OJT
- Ewing Electrical- New Apprenticeship
- Gorham PD- New OJT
- Jaffrey PD- New OJT
- Keene PD- New OJT
- PlaneSense- New OJT

Career Schools:

- John Mason Institute- Disapproved from the Veterans Program
- New England EMS Institute- Compliance Visit
- Michael's School of Hair Design- Compliance Visit
- Heavy Construction Academy- Compliance Visit
- North Eastern Whole Health- Technical Visit (In regards to training staff on use of proper VA forms)
- Empire Beauty School- Technical Visit(In regards to add a massage therapy program)
- New England Institute of Canine Cosmetology-Technical Visit (In regards to new facility)
- Paul Mitchell The School Portsmouth- Technical Visit (In regards to a student)

- Salter- Technical Visit (In regards to training staff about the proper VA forms)
- McGregor Institute of EMS- Compliance Visit
- Laird Institute of Spa Therapy- Technical Visit (review of the massage therapy program)

Colleges & Universities

- Keene State College- Compliance Visit
- Southern New Hampshire University - Technical Visit (In regards to possible new program approvals)
- Lebanon College- Technical Visit (In regards to their closure)
- Mount Washington College- Technical Visit (In regards to the closure of the Nashua & Salem Campuses)
- White Mountain Community College- New Program Approval
- InterCoast Colleges & Career Institute- Technical Visit (In regards to their closure)
- Saint Anselm College- Technical Visit (In regards to a student issue)

Orientations & Conferences:

- NASAA Summer Conference
- Veterans' Professional Development Conference @ Manchester Community College
- VA Education Services Training Webinar

Outreach:

- Meeting with NH State Apprenticeship Advisory Council
- Meeting with Concord, NH DVOP
- Meeting with Portsmouth, NH DVOP
- NH National Guard Scholarship Committee Meeting
- VA Medical Center; Manchester, NH
- Military Community Partners Networking Meeting
- Veterans Job Fair- Concord, NH (Hosted by NHWorks)
- Massachusetts School Certifying Official Conference

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