

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

October 10, 2017

To: Members of the Higher Education Commission

Subject: Director's Report

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

None

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

Shireen Meskoob joined our Division on June 9, 2017 as the Program Specialist I for the Office of Career School Licensing. She came to us from the NH Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management. She has a Bachelor of International Relations from Mount Holyoke College and a Masters in Teaching History from Boston University.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

As previously reported, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) continued **Daniel Webster College's** accreditation for the sole purpose of allowing current students who completed their degree requirements by August 31, 2017 to receive a Daniel Webster College degree. A total of 165 students were conferred a Daniel Webster College degree. In the fall of 2016, 569 students were active in courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level as follows:

- 536 in Daniel Webster College undergraduate courses at the Nashua campus
- 9 in Southern New Hampshire University undergraduate courses online
- 24 in Southern New Hampshire University graduate courses online

In the spring of 2017, 443 students were active in courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level as follows:

- 401 in Daniel Webster College undergraduate courses at the Nashua campus
- 15 in Southern New Hampshire University undergraduate courses online
- 27 in Southern New Hampshire University graduate courses online

In the spring of 2017, 116 students were active in courses at the Southern New Hampshire University campus as follows:

- 29 in Daniel Webster College/Southern New Hampshire University undergraduate courses at the Southern New Hampshire University Manchester campus.
- 62 in Southern New Hampshire University undergraduate courses online
- 25 in Southern New Hampshire University graduate courses online

4 students withdrew and were ineligible to complete the teach-out due to academic and/or student conduct issues. 21 students were dismissed at the completion of the fall semester and 5 were dismissed in the spring due to academic performance and/or student conduct issues. 28 students withdrew from Daniel Webster College after the fall semester.

Through coordination with the bankruptcy trustee for ITT Tech, Southern New Hampshire University maintained and utilized the Daniel Webster College Nashua campus through the spring of 2017. Facilities and all requirements for the Nashua campus were transferred to the bankruptcy trustee for ITT Tech as of May 31, 2017.

Based on the approval from the NEASC and the NH Department of Education, Division of Higher Education, Higher Education Commission, Southern New Hampshire University launched six programs within the College of Engineering, Technology and Aeronautics beginning in the fall of 2017. These programs encompass the transitioned programs and students from Daniel Webster College along with 86 new students. The facility for these programs were built through the conversion of an existing building on Southern New Hampshire University's Manchester campus, and the design for the new \$40 million engineering building has been approved, with work to begin in the spring of 2018.

Franklin Pierce University forwarded required materials from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education reaffirming accreditation until June 30, 2027, with the next site visit scheduled for fall 2026. A Compliance Report, due August 15, 2017, was received, reviewed and found acceptable.

Southern New Hampshire University forwarded its required Continuous Improvement Progress Report due to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) by June 1, 2017. The Commission accepts accreditation by the CCNE for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing, which expires December 31, 2019.

New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) Activity:

New England College forwarded the formal letter from the NEASC accepting the report submitted by the College. The interim Fifth-Year Report is due in the spring 2019 and the Comprehensive Evaluation is scheduled for spring 2024.

The **New Hampshire Institute of Art** forwarded a copy of a letter to the NEASC informing them that it has decided to close the Master of Arts in Art Education Program due to a decline in enrollment. It will not cease instruction and will teach out the remaining students, conferring the last Master of Arts in Art Education degree in the summer of 2019.

The **New Hampshire Institute of Art** forwarded the required Progress Report which was due to the NEASC by October 1, 2017. The report was reviewed and found acceptable. A Focused Evaluation is scheduled for March 19-20, 2018. Dr. Richard Gustafson will serve as the Commission's observer.

We are in receipt of correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education informing us that the **Northeast Catholic College** has qualified to participate in programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the federal student financial assistance programs (Title IV).

The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts forwarded the formal letter from the NEASC granting continued accreditation. The College must submit an Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment (ARFE) by December 1, 2017 for consideration in Spring 2018. A focused evaluation is scheduled for Fall of 2018. The College must submit a Fifth-Year Interim Report for consideration in Spring 2021, with the next Comprehensive Evaluation scheduled for Fall 2025.

A letter from the U.S. Department of Education was received indicating **The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts** was no longer required to have a Letter of Credit to cover its financial aid program.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

The **MCPHS University** forwarded required NEASC materials for its March 26-29, 2017 site visit. Materials were reviewed and found acceptable.

The **MCPHS University** forwarded required materials for its Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). Our approval is without a terminal date and aligned with the ARC-PA. The ARC-PA granted *Accreditation-Continued* status to the University – Manchester/Worcester Physician Assistant Program. *Accreditation-Continued* is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA *Standards*.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the Standards. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA was September 2017. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the Accreditation *Standards* and ARC-PA policy. We await results.

The **MCPHS University** forwarded required materials for its Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Our approval is without a terminal date and aligned with the ACOTE. The ACOTE voted to grant Candidacy Status and required a Self-Study be submitted by July 3, 2017. The Self-Study was received, reviewed and found acceptable.

The **MCPHS University** notified the Division that the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing removed the Warning Status for its School of Nursing – Boston, MA Bachelor of Science in Nursing and reinstated full approval status. This shows progress in its removing this program from probationary status.

Administrative Approvals for Online Programs:

Administrative approval is granted to institutions within states that are not members of the National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (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. These institutions are as follows:

Chamberlain University (Downers Grove, IL), accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, was approved to offer the Master of Public Health until June 30, 2019.

Fitchburg State University (Fitchburg, MA), accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) and the Master of Science in Forensic Nursing until June 30, 2019.

Lesley University (Cambridge, MA), accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2019:

- Master of Arts and Graduate Certificate – Mindfulness Studies
- Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling – Expressive Therapies Specializations
- Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Simmons College (Boston, MA), accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2019:

- Master of Social Work
- Master of Science in Library and Information Science
- Master of Public Health

South University (Savannah, GA), accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- Associate of Science in Paralegal Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Administrator)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Educator)
- RN to Master of Science in Nursing (Nursing Informatics)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Administrator)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Educator)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Nursing Informatics)
- Post Graduate Certificate in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Post Graduate Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner
- Post Graduate Certificate in Nurse Administrator
- Post Graduate Certificate in Nurse Educator
- Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Informatics
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Doctor of Ministry
- Master of Public Health
- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Master of Medical Science in Anesthesia Science
- Master of Science in Physician Assistant
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management

- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Sciences
- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in Information Systems
- Doctor of Business Administration

The shortened approval time (one year versus two years) was due to a poor accreditation report from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

University of Connecticut School of Nursing (Storrs, CT), accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the Master of Science in Neonatal Nursing Practitioner until June 30, 2019.

University of St. Augustine (St. Augustine, FL), accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, was approved to offer the Master of Occupational Therapy, Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Doctor of Nursing, and Doctor of Physical Therapy until June 30, 2019.

CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

From July 1, 2017 until September 30, 2017 (FY 2018), **735** college/university transcripts and **14** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$14,980**. During the same period in the prior year, a total of **587** college/university transcripts and **10** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$11,940.00** transcript requests were processed.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Research and Studies related activities completed this quarter include:

- Communication with all institution presidents who receive UNIQUE Annual Allocation Program (UAAP) and UNIQUE Endowment Allocation Program (UEAP) monies in preparation for the report of funds received and distributed.
- Worked with Shireen Meskoob here at the Division of Higher Education to complete and send out the 2017 Licensed Career Schools Survey to all NH licensed career schools.
- Gave PowerPoint presentation to attendees of the NH Licensed Career School meeting on October 4 in Nashua.
- Continued complaint response and coordination. The Division received six complaints regarding the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) member institutions since July. Three of the complaints are still open. Three have been resolved and are closed.
- Fulfilled miscellaneous research requests, including legislator requests and support for the Workforce Accelerator Initiative.
- Continued communications with the U.S. Department of Education to enable NH to join the Federal FAFSA Completion Initiative.
- Submitted "Considering College or Career School? Let these steps guide your decision making process." for the Department of Education, *Key Messages* newsletter.

- Reviewed the New England Secondary School Consortium, soon to be released, Common Data Project report. Corrections sent.

Please review “**Director’s Report: Fall 2017 Research and News**” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attached).

Top issues this quarter:

- Community Colleges
- Workforce Initiatives
- The “Forever” GI Bill

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Program Support
Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Continued support for all NH institutions that submit IPEDS data. The current IPEDS collection cycle closes on October 18. The surveys to be completed include: Institutional Characteristics, Completions, and 12-month Enrollment. Steady progress is being made by the institutions.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING
Submitted by Shireen Meskoob

The Office of Career School Licensing continues to ensure that the quality of the education provided by the more than 70 career schools meets the high standards set forth by the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules. Specifically, we are committed to monitoring and helping schools develop and revise policies, programs, procedures, and personnel that will promote, bolster and protect the delivery of quality education to students. The mission of the Office of Career School Licensing is to offer modicum in helping students attain greater potential in becoming positive contributors to New Hampshire’s society and economy.

The following activities and events mark the period from June 9th, 2017 through October 5th, 2017 by the Office of Career School Licensing:

- Extensive communication with, assistance to, and evaluation of materials from over 20 schools prior to issuing their licenses.
- Commencement of communications with three potential new schools who seek to begin the process of licensure with the State of New Hampshire.
- Investigation of fraudulent practices at two schools, Seacoast Center for Education, Inc., Stratham and Salter School of Nursing and Allied Health, Manchester, comprised of multiple site visits, interviews with administrators, owners and students, corporations, a draft of notice to the schools citing specific violation of Heds 300, and required corrective actions. The cooperation and application of corrective actions is ongoing.

- Investigation of a student complaint, comprised of extensive interviews, evaluation of documentation, followed by a final response accepted by both parties.
- Organization of career school meetings attended by stakeholders and representatives from the Department of Education for the purpose of revising Hedc 300, including, but not limited to presentations of proposed rules by Commissioner Edelblut and Diana Fenton, Esq.
- The active participation of the ongoing revision of Hedc 300, including, but not limited to, creating drafts, revising language, collaborating with major stakeholders, in addition to legal counsel and other members of the Division of Higher Education.
- Presentation of the annual, full day Career Schools Training Meeting on October 5th, 2017. The meeting was designed to educate schools on the benefits of the annual career school survey, the process to revise the NH Code of Administrative Rules, the relevance of the NH Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, the revised logistical procedures and forms for acquiring a license, and the promotion of career schools throughout New Hampshire. Twenty-three schools were represented at the meeting.

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Shireen Meskoob at (603) 271-6443 or by e-mail to Shireen.Meskoob@doe.nh.gov.

VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES

Submitted by James A. Margeson IV

The Veterans Education Services (VES) team continues to expand the educational opportunities for veterans and their dependents, and is committed to continuing to do so. Below are some of the activities conducted by the team from May 2017 through September 2017:

One or both members of the VES team participated in the following activities during the period from May 2017 through September 2017:

- National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) Summer Conference
- New Hampshire Military Leadership Team
- New Hampshire National Guard Scholarship Committee Meeting
- New Hampshire School Certifying Official (SCO) Conference and Training Planning Team
- Massachusetts SCO Conference
- NASAA Conference Calls
- US Veterans Administration Conference Calls
- US Veterans Administration Webinars

NHSAA figures for the reporting period of February 2017 through July 2017:

- IHLs (Colleges & Universities)
 - \$24,141,490.06 (Chapter 33 & 31 tuition paid to facilities)
 - 6,568 Veterans reported as enrolled
 - 1,027 Dependents reported as enrolled
- NCD (Career Schools)
 - \$5,002,544.60 (Chapter 33 & 31 tuition paid to facilities)
 - 378 Veterans reported as enrolled
 - 20 Dependents reported as enrolled

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

As the Legislative process continues, it is unclear if any of the bills identified in the prior report will receive approval. The following lists the latest action by the Legislature:

HB 180 Requiring postsecondary education institutions to compile and submit reports on remedial education courses. **House Education Committee – Work Session on 10-10-17@ 1:00 p.m., LOB 207; Executive Session on 11/8/17 @ 9:30 a.m., LOB 207**

HB 477 Relative to free speech on campuses in the university system and the community college system. **House Education Committee – Executive Session on 11/8/17 @ 9:30 a.m., LOB 207**

HB 609 Establishing a children's savings account program and making an appropriation therefor. **House Education Committee – Executive Session on 11/8/17 @ 9:30 a.m., LOB 207**

HB 647 Establishing education savings accounts for children with disabilities. **Laid on Table**

SB 41 Establishing a fund to forgive certain educational debt and making an appropriation therefor. **Laid on Table**

SB 101 Relative to enrollment eligibility for regional career and technical education programs and relative to high school students participating in New Hampshire's dual and concurrent enrollment program and making an appropriation therefor. **Signed by the Governor on 7/10/17**

SB 193 Establishing education freedom savings accounts for students. **Executive Session on 11/8/17 @ 9:30 a.m., LOB 207**

SB 228 Establishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership (NH GRIP). **Laid on Table**

For further information on any bill, the link to N.H. General Court is as follows:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/quick_search.html