

Item No.

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

October 20, 2020 Commission Meeting

Director's Report

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

No attendance at out-of-state meetings.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

Magdalen College:

Dr. George Harne has left the presidency and Dr. Eric Buck, a member of the faculty, is serving as interim president as the College conducts a presidential search.

NECHE is conducting a virtual site visit on October 18-20, 2020 following a 5th Year Interim Report. Dr.

Richard A. Gustafson is serving as the Commission's Observer for this visit.

New England College: Final Report on NEC/NHIA Merger, September 4, 2020

New England College (NEC) filed its final report with the Commission regarding the completion of Phase II of the merger with the New Hampshire Institute of Art (NHIA) and the implementation of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program. The former NHIA is now known as the New England College Institute of Art and Design. The comprehensive report addressed the area of Board of Trustee membership, institutional organization, integration of the faculty, academic program integration, student activities and services, facilities, and finances.

NEC now has a single Board of Trustees, which includes the former chair of the NHIA Board of Trustees. The institutional organization has been consolidated and integrated with the faculty and staff located at the Manchester site now shown as part of the overall college organization. Some administrators and faculty have responsibilities in Henniker and Manchester.

Faculty and curricular integration is complete. The Faculty Handbook addresses matters of appointment, the types of faculty appointments, teaching loads, and terms of employment. Library and Art Gallery staffing for Manchester and Henniker have been enhanced and responsibilities described.

The BFA curriculum and program requirements have also been integrated and structured in a way that enables future modifications to respond to emerging opportunities. The BFA and BA majors complete a common foundation core curriculum that aligns with the College Art Association guidelines. The Master

of Fine Arts (MFA) in Visual Arts has also been restructured to take advantage of both NEC and NHIA program features. It remains a two-year, low residency program with the residencies focused on studio practices. The MA in Teaching of Visual Arts (MAT) is no longer a dual-degree program but stands alone to serve NEC graduates as well as others. The College will not continue its NASAD accreditation, as the organizational and governance structures required do not align with the College's mission that all students will have an integrated academic experience rooted in the Liberal Arts.

Facility needs in Manchester, Peterborough, and Sharon have been assessed as noted in earlier reports. The sale of Fuller Hall in Manchester enables significant consolidation in other Manchester facilities. Other properties in Manchester, Peterborough, and Sharon remain on the market in times slowed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Financial consolidation is complete with the start of the 2021 fiscal year. The College realized savings with the integration of business functions, debt has been reduced or refinanced, and tuition for all students has been equalized. Overall College financial results for FY 2019 and FY 2020 were positive and a balanced budget is in place for FY 2021.

New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Activity:

Colby Sawyer College: A NECHE focused virtual site visit to the College is scheduled for October 26-28, 2020 as a follow-up to the College's 5th Year Interim Report.

Hellenic American University: A NECHE focused virtual site visit to the Nashua instructional site is scheduled for November 8-10, 2020.

Magdalen College: A NECHE virtual site visit to evaluate progress as documented in the institution's 5th Year Interim Evaluation Report is scheduled for October 18-21, 2020. The Commission Observer will be Dr. Richard A. Gustafson.

New England College: A NECHE virtual site visit to evaluate the progress of the Bachelor of Fine Arts and merger and instructional locations in Dallas (Eastlake and Richland, possibly Brookhaven) is scheduled for October 28-30, 2020. The Commission Observer will be Dr. Richard A. Gustafson.

Saint Anselm College: The Commission received the Saint Anselm College report prepared for the NECHE virtual on-site evaluation visit in June, 2020. This report documented the progress made by the institution to address the issues that led to a formal Notice of Concern that the College was in danger of not meeting the NECHE Standard on Organization and Governance. Trustees and members of the Saint Anselm Abbey are working toward a single set of bylaws that will address the concerns identified by the NECHE. The resolution of the governance matters is also being adjudicated in the New Hampshire Courts. The Commission did not designate an observer for this NECHE visit. Saint Anselm College will provide the Commission with the NECHE evaluation report when it is finished, as well as the NECHE correspondence, likely to come following its fall, 2020 meetings.

Upper Valley Educators Institute (UVEI): A comprehensive virtual site visit to evaluate the UVEI Self-Study for NECHE Candidacy will be conducted on October 18-21, 2020. The Commission Observer will be Director Stephen Appleby.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

Northern Vermont University: It submitted its annual June 30, 2020 report to the Commission as required. The MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is experiencing a steady enrollment of some 100 students, with a cohort of 23 students based here in New Hampshire. The alignment of curricular syllabi with standards of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) continues as scheduled with the final three courses and several unique courses set for completion in the 2020-2021 academic year. There have been no significant curricular changes and no changes to the full-time faculty. Two new part-time faculty have been hired who meet CACREP standards.

Following the approval by the Commission in June, 2018, the NECHE approved a substantive change for the program. The NECHE conducted a virtual site visit in July, 2020 to ascertain the successful transition of the program from Southern New Hampshire University in 2018. The Commission did not designate an observer for this visit. Northern Vermont University will provide the Commission with the NECHE evaluation report when it is finalized, as well as the NECHE Commission correspondence, likely to come following its fall, 2020 meeting.

Vermont Technical College: It was approved to offer the AS in Practical Nursing Certificate Program at the Glencliff Home, Glencliff, NH through June 30, 2022, with the condition that several organizational and program matters be addressed before implementation, and progress reports be filed before December 31, 2020, and a site visit be scheduled for April 2021.

The College 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. The launch planned for a cohort of 8 students in September, 2020 has been postponed until September 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions and the program still awaits approval by the NH Board of Nursing.

The College is still planning for a regular fall 2020 NECHE visit, and the Commission will not send an observer as all correspondence will come to the Commission office.

The Commission likely needs to amend the visit scheduled for April, 2021 in light of this postponement.

Pratt Institute: After more than forty (40) years of providing Intensive Low Residency education in Laconia, Pratt Institute has submitted official notification of moving its two graduate programs: MS in Dance/Movement Therapy and MPS in Art Therapy and Creativity Development from Lincoln, NH to its home campus in Brooklyn, New York.

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 (Northridge, CA) is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2022:

- M.S. in Communication Disorders
- M.P.H. Masters in Public Health
- M.S.W. Masters in Social Work

It is a public, not-for-profit institution serving 38,000 students.

These mature programs have been approved since 2018 and are offered online through Teng College, which serves primarily graduate, international, and mid-career professionals. All three programs are accredited by the associated professional associations. This approval permits students to fulfill their internship/practicum requirements in New Hampshire.

Pepperdine University (Malibu, CA), accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2022:

- Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)
- Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis (NSABA)

Pepperdine University, a Christian university founded in 1937, is a private research university based in Malibu, CA, and serves 3,600 undergraduate and 4,400 graduate students in California and other campuses in Washington, DC, Argentina, China, England, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

These programs are offered face-to-face in the campus setting and also offered online using real time delivery. With this approval, students are permitted to fulfill their internship requirements in New Hampshire.

South University (Savannah, GA), accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, was approved to offer the following programs until June 30, 2022:

- 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

South University is a private, now a for-profit university, founded in 1899, and is based in Savannah, GA, but has 11 additional education centers around the country. Initial approval was granted in 1996. It serves approximately 4,000 students in Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral programs that are “focused and flexible.” The University is accredited through 2024 and has a progress report due in 2020, which will be shared with the Commission.

These programs are offered online and with this approval students are permitted to fulfill their internship or practicum requirements in New Hampshire.

United States University (San Diego, CA) accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The University is a for-profit institution based in San Diego, CA, and part of the Aspen Group, based in Phoenix, AZ. It was not approved for the use of practicum and clinical instructional sites in New Hampshire for its RN to BSN and MSN programs in Family Nurse Practitioner, Health Care Leadership, and Nurse Educator. While the institution is regionally accredited by the WASC, and the nursing programs by CCNE, recent evaluation visits by the WSAC has raised issues related to sustainability and quality. The WASC has scheduled follow-up visits in 2021 and 2022. The Director is willing to approve individual practicum or clinical instructional placements on a case-by-case basis. The University was encouraged to file an updated application following the outcomes of the WASC visits.

Walden University (Minneapolis, MN), accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, was approved to offer the following degrees and certificates until June 30, 2022:

- MS Clinical Psychology
- MS Forensic Psychology
- MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- MS in School Counseling

- MS Addictions Counseling
- MS Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Master of Social Work
- Ph.D. Counselor Education and Supervision
- Doctor of Nurse Practice Program
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Master of Public Health
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- MS in Education - Educational Leadership and Administration - Principal Preparation
- Ed.S. Educational Leadership and Administration - Principal Preparation Program
- Master of Arts in Teaching-Special Education (K-Age 21)
- Master of Science in Education - Specialization in Reading and Literacy with a Reading K-12 endorsement.

Post-Master's Certificates:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Many of Walden University's degree programs are also accredited by professional associations that oversee career related programs. Walden University is a for-profit institution with its main offices in Minneapolis, MN. It is owned by Laureate Education, Inc., which is incorporated in the state of Florida. The University serves over 48,000 students, is in good standing with its accreditors, and has a USDE financial responsibility score of 2.83.

International Colleges and Universities:

CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

From July 1, 2020 until September 30, 2020 (FY 2021), 790 college/university transcripts and 42 career school transcripts were processed. During the same period in the prior year (FY 2020), a total of 619 college/university transcripts and 25 career school transcripts were processed. *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we waived our transcript request fee for 12 months from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21.*

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.
- Fulfilled miscellaneous higher ed research requests

Please review “**Director’s Report: Summer Fall 2020 Research and News**” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attached).

Top issues this quarter:

- **Covid-19**
- **Equity in Higher Education**
- **Debt and Financial Aid Issues**

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Program Support

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Continued support for all NH colleges and career schools that submit IPEDS data. The current IPEDS collection cycle closes on October 14 (for Keyholders) and on October 28 (for Coordinators). The surveys to be completed include: Institutional Characteristics, Completions, and 12-month Enrollment. Steady progress is being made by the institutions despite the Pandemic.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOLS LICENSING (OCSL)

Submitted by Katelyn Komisarek

Correspondence between The Office of Career School Licensing and career schools has been challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All on site visits have been conducted and approved remotely until travel restrictions further ease. Most schools have adapted to online learning and are holding class sessions once again, some established as hybrid models being both online and classroom learning. Other career schools have closed due to change in structure being outside the state. In order to assist NH career schools in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic the NH DOE has waived certain career school related fees effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

This spring the OCSL will also seek to review the revised statutes, forms, and guidelines now that most have been in effect for two years with provided feedback from existing career schools.

Below are some of the other activities that were conducted by the OCSL team since the last Commission meeting in May 2020.

Completed site visits to the following schools:

Site visits have been completed virtually through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Renewed the licenses of the following schools:

- IMAGINiT Technologies

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

- Radiation Safety & Control Services
- John Mason Institute
- TENET
- Nashua Adult Learning Center
- HRFoodSafe
- American Academy of Health and Beauty

New School Applications:

- Advanced Technical Schooling (Online Electrical Apprenticeship) (Approved)
- Performance Electrical Training (Online Electrical Apprenticeship) (Pending)
- The Trivium Institute for Leader Development (Ministry Certificate and Cont. Ed.) (Pending)

Processing/Completed the closure of the following schools:

- NTI Organic Lawn Care (Lawn Care) (closed)
- Master Bartender School (Bartending) (closed)
- SkillPath (Admin Support/HR Training) (closed)
- National Seminars (Admin Support/HR Training) (closed)
- Durkee Personnel (Computer Software Training) (closed)
- The Arvigo Institute (Specialized Bodywork) (processing)

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Katelyn Komisarek at (603) 271-6443 or by e-mail at 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 11,099 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 May 1, 2020, through October 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: 13
- Colby-Sawyer College: 11
- Dartmouth College: 70
- Tuck School: 25
- Geisel School: 6
- Franklin Pierce University (all campuses): 26
- Granite State College (all campuses): 242
- Great Bay Community College (both campuses): 86
- Keene State College: 63
- Lakes Region Community College: 34
- Manchester Community College: 118
- Manchester School of Technology: 1
- Magdalen College (formerly Northeast Catholic College): 3
- MCPHS University (formerly Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences): 10
- Nashua Community College: 54
- New England College: 103
- NHTI – Concord’s Community College: 109
- Plymouth State University: 110
- River Valley Community College: 28
- Rivier University: 35
- Saint Anselm College: 24
- St. Joseph School of Nursing: 3
- Southern New Hampshire University (all campuses and online): 9,403
- Thomas More College of Liberal Arts: 1
- UNH (all campuses): 470
- White Mountains Community College: 41

NCDs (Non-College Degree schools):

- American School of Nursing and Medical Careers (ex-Salter): 8
- Commercial Driving School: 8
- Continental Academie of Hair Design: 1
- Dover School of Technology: 1
- Empire Beauty School (all campuses): 4
- Granite State Emergency Medical Services: 3
- Heavy Construction Academy: 233
- Michaels School of Hair Design: 2
- NH EMS Institute: 8
- NH School of Barbering: 6
- NH Department of Safety - Fire Standards and Training: 4
- New Hampshire Police Standards and Training: 27
- NH School of Mechanical Trades: 9
- Paul Mitchell: 3
- SOLO/Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities: 16
- Whole Pet Grooming Academy: 0

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.

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.
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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. ALL INSTITUTIONS
HB 1582	Providing free tuition at colleges and universities for children of veterans who are totally and permanently disabled. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
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. ALL INSTITUTIONS
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