

**NH Department of Education
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission
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December 17, 2013

MEMORANDUM

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Senator Stiles, as our prime sponsor, will be submitting higher education and career school legislation for the upcoming 2014 Legislative Session. We will prepare testimony to speak to each item.

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

On December 5-6, I attended the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

A four member screening committee, representative of the Higher Education Commission, conducted interviews on November 20, 2013 with highly qualified professionals who made application for the position of Director, Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission within the Department of Education. The committee was unanimous in putting forward Dr. Edward R. MacKay's name to Commissioner Virginia Barry for nomination to the Governor's Office. Dr. MacKay has many years of experience in higher education in New Hampshire and would be an asset to the Commission.

On November 19, 2013, I attended a NH Forum on the Future breakfast at the NH Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College. A summary document "A Strategic Economic Plan for New Hampshire" will be distributed for your review.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

On December 11, 2013, I attended a SARA meeting with Karen D. Abbott, Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, Southern New Hampshire University, Thomas Galligan, President, Colby-Sawyer College, Ross Gittell, Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire, Tom Horgan, President & CEO, NH College & University Council, Todd Leach, Chancellor, University System of New Hampshire, and Michael Thomas, President, New England Board of Higher Education. Dr. Edward MacKay also attended to assure continuity with the work of the Commission.

I will share a synopsis of the discussion with the Commission.

In-State

We received notification from **Lebanon College** that it plans to offer three new allied health certificate programs in 2014. The programs identified are as follows: Medical Assistant, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Surgical Technician. Lebanon College will seek accreditation of these programs by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and appropriate allied health accreditation associations. The Higher Education Commission does not require institutions under its oversight to seek approval of certificate programs and, therefore, will not conduct a formal review. It does, however, expect to receive communications to/from accreditation associations, reserving the right to assign an observer to any team visits.

We received notification from the **New Hampshire Institute of Art** of a focused site visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) resulting from an interim report, merger with the Sharon Arts Center, and approval of the Master of Arts Education and Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing programs. The visit was held on November 20-22, 2013. A Commission observer was not assigned, but the New Hampshire Institute of Art was required to forward all NEASC and National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) correspondence and reports.

St. John International University filed its November 1, 2013 progress report on the 16 recommendations adopted by the Commission. The report is summarized in the attached matrix.

St. Joseph School of Nursing forwarded a required copy of the Planned Substantive Change Report submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing for its Associate of Science in Nursing curricular revision and program length.

NEASC activity:

- **New England College** - Comprehensive visit in spring, 2014
- Congratulations to **Hellenic American University** for achieving initial accreditation from the NEASC.
- Congratulations to **The College of Saint Mary Magdalen** for achieving candidacy status from the NEASC.
- At the NEASC November 22, 2013 meeting, **The Thomas More College of Liberal Studies** achieved continued accreditation with its next review scheduled for fall, 2015.

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:

Boston University – Boston, MA – accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges – Master of Social Work until June 30, 2016.

Maryville University – St. Louis, MO – accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and School – Master of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2017.

The Sage Colleges – Troy, NY – accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education – the following degrees until June 30, 2017:

- Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism
- Dietetic Internship
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy

University of St. Augustine - St. Augustine, FL – accredited by the Distance Education & Training Council – the following degrees until June 30, 2017:

- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Master of Occupational Therapy
- Master of Orthopaedic Assistant

Closed School Transcripts

FY 2014 - as of November 30, 2013, we have processed 279 college/university transcripts @ \$20.00 = \$5,580.00 and 40 career school transcripts @ \$10.00 = \$400.00

FY 2013 - as of November 30, 2012, we processed 262 college/university transcripts @ \$20.00 = \$5,240.00 and 69 career school transcripts @ \$10.00 = \$690.00.

COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

Submitted by Amy Slattery

Per earlier reports, we have now received official communications from the US Department of Education that our request for a waiver of MOE requirements for our College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) has been denied.

Through the Department's leadership and utilization of CACG carry-over funds, the Division has awarded modest contract extensions to the New Hampshire College and University Council's NH Scholars/Diversity program, as well as the Community College System of New Hampshire's Mathematics Learning Communities. While both are promising developments, CACG funding to support all projects will lapse by the end of June 2014.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Amy Slattery

See attachment

FINANCIAL AID

Submitted by Amy Slattery

To date, six students are eligible for the Scholarship for Orphans of Veterans. There is a \$10,000.00 annual budget available for the program and the awarding of scholarship stipends will occur at the end of the calendar year.

The Division continues to receive and collect repayment monies to the Workforce Incentive Program and Paul Douglas Teacher Program.

The Division is nearing completion of its fall collection and reporting data on behalf of the New Hampshire College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Commission, in collaboration with the New Hampshire Department of Treasury. The data include New Hampshire resident enrollment at participating institutions, annual scholarship allocation, endowment fund disbursements and other IPEDS specific information, in order for the Advisory Commission to be informed with its decisions on funding allocations.

Career School Licensing

Submitted by Kimberly J. Kenneally

The Career School Licensing function continues its performance as required by RSA 188-G:1-10.

As of December 9, 2013:

- Effective June 30, 2013, S.B. 162 repealed RSA 188-G:4 the Student Tuition Guaranty Fund. We are, therefore, in the process of forwarding refunds to current and closed career schools for a total amount of \$413,317.64. To date, we have processed refunds for 78 active schools for a total of \$344,692.21

- The Commission will vote on Hedc 300 Rules; if accepted, the rules will be submitted to JLCAR for additional review.

- Salter School of Nursing and Allied Health has been under close examination regarding the Surgical Technology program. All parties agree with the issues at hand and are working to resolve the state of affairs.

- Currently there are eighty three (83) licensed career schools in the State of New Hampshire.

- The office has recently, or is in the process of reviewing nine (9) new career schools.

- Twenty six (26) renewal applications are pending review.

VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES

Submitted by James A. Margeson IV

To whom it may concern,

The Veterans Education Services team continues to grow the program, and hopes to continue to do so in federal fiscal year 2014. Below are some of the activities that were conducted by the Veterans Education Services team from October 2013 to December 2013.

On the Job Training & Apprenticeships:

- *Bow Plumbing & Heating*- Apprenticeship Approval
- *Thirsty Water Systems*- Apprenticeship Approval
- *DECCO, INC*- Apprenticeship Approval
- *Delta Electric*- Apprenticeship Approval
- *Boston ARTCC*- Compliance visit

Career Schools:

- *Commercial Driving School, LLC*- Compliance visit
- *The Student Conservation Association*- Site visit
- *The Salter School*- Site visit; Suspended Surgical Tech Program (if issues are not resolved by 12/27/2013, the program will be withdrawn from the veterans program.)
- *New England Institute of Canine Cosmetology*- Compliance visit

Colleges & Universities

- *SNHU*- Compliance visit, program approvals
- *Lakes Region Community College*- Site visit, program approvals

Orientations & Conferences:

- NASA NTI training
- Eastern Region Monthly Conference Calls
- NH new Woman's Prison planning committee meeting

Outreach:

- Meeting with DVOP/ LVER; Manchester, NH
- Meeting with DVOP/LVER; Concord, NH
- Hero to Hire Job Fair; Concord, NH
- Meeting with VA CWT Program, Manchester, NH

If you have any questions regarding these activities please contact me at (603)271-8508 or by email at James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov.