



New England Commission of Higher Education

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TO: CEOs, CAOs, CFOs, ALOs of candidate and member institutions, and interested others

FROM: Barbara Brittingham

DATE: August 14, 2018

I am pleased to inform you that the US Department of Education has officially transferred the Commission's federal recognition to our new corporation, New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) as of August 1, 2018 (see attached). The development of NECHE was discussed at the Annual Meeting last December.

What has changed?

- The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) is now the federally recognized regional accreditor for the six New England States. We are a 501(c)(3) independent corporation.
- The Commission now fully meets the federal requirement that it be "separate and independent" of any other organization.
- We are assuming the business functions of the Commission previously managed by NEASC.
- The Commission has finalized a strategic plan for the next three years. We'll be sending it out and scheduling regional meetings in the Fall to engage the membership.
- In 2019, our Annual Meeting will return to the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston.

What stays the same?

- NECHE is a membership organization of the accredited colleges and universities.
- The *Standards for Accreditation* and the Commission's policies and procedures are unchanged by this new organization. They will, of course, continue to evolve so that the Commission can best fulfill its responsibilities to the membership and to the public.
- Commissioners – a mix of institutional, trustee, and public members – will continue to be elected annually by the member colleges and universities.
- The Commission's dual role of quality assurance and quality improvement remains in place.

What is NECHE's relationship with NEASC?

- In a word, cordial. The Commission values its history with NEASC, tracing its roots to the oldest quality assurance agency in higher education in the world.
- We will stay in the same office suite with NEASC, at least through the end of the current lease, about four years.
- We share a technology staff, common space – and a holiday party and monthly coffee hours.

What comes next? (See our new logo, above)

- New email addresses and a new website.
- New letterhead and editorial revisions in our publications.

Will this affect our dues?

- Not directly, and in fact there may be some efficiencies. That said, the Commission will want to monitor its ability to meet the increased expectations of government and the public for quality assurance and transparency.

How do I pronounce the new acronym?

- Glad you asked. It's **neh**-chee.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

July 31, 2018

Barbara E. Brittingham, President
New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, Massachusetts 01803-4514

Dear Dr. Brittingham:

As requested, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education will now be listed on the Department of Education's list of recognized accrediting agencies as the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).

Scope of Recognition: the accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidacy status") of institutions of higher education in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont that award bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral degrees and associate degree-granting institutions in those states that include degrees in liberal arts or general studies among their offerings, including the accreditation of programs offered via distance education within these institutions.

Sincerely,

Herman Bounds Jr., Ed.S
Director, Accreditation Group