

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**  
**New England Commission of Higher Education and College of St. Joseph**

**Burlington, MA** At its meeting on November 15, 2018, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to withdraw the accreditation of College of St. Joseph in Rutland, Vermont, effective August 31, 2019 with the understanding that the College will cease instruction as of the end of the Spring 2019 semester. The accreditation is continued until August 31, 2019 for the sole purpose of allowing students to complete their degree from an accredited institution. Until accreditation is withdrawn, the College of St. Joseph remains accredited and maintains eligibility for federal student financial aid. The College was informed that, should it decide not to appeal the Commission's action, the Commission will make the "new evidence" provision available to the College until April 1, 2019.

"Although we do not have the financial means required to file a formal appeal, we are appreciative of the Commission giving us time to produce new evidence that would have a bearing on the Commission's decision," said CSJ President Jennifer Scott. "We are exploring every strategic avenue, with closure at the very bottom of our list of options. Above all else, we are committed to addressing and protecting the needs of our students."

"CSJ is not alone in our fight for survival. Small, private colleges are closing across the country at a rate of about 11 a year. This is an alarming trend to many of us who share a mission of access, affordability, and equity in higher education. Schools like CSJ are essential to preserving the diversity of choice for all students."

The New England Commission of Higher Education is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education. The Commission accredits 224 degree-granting institutions in the six New England states and eleven American-style institutions in other countries. The Commission previously operated as the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

College of St. Joseph, located in Rutland, Vermont, is a career-oriented liberal arts institution. Offering associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees, it has been accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education since 1972. College of St. Joseph is a private, independent college.

Further information may be found at:

New England Commission of Higher Education: <http://www.neche.org>

College of St. Joseph: <http://www.csj.edu>

#####