

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

New England Commission of Higher Education and Southern Vermont College

At its meeting January 25, 2019, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to ask Southern Vermont College to show cause why it should not be placed on probation or have its accreditation withdrawn because the Commission had reason to believe that Southern Vermont College is not meeting the Commission's Standard on *Institutional Resources*. At its meeting February 28, 2019, the Commission will consider the information submitted and presented by Southern Vermont College. If the Commission finds that the College does not meet the standard on Institutional Resources, it will continue the College in accreditation and determine further monitoring. Decisions to place an institution on probation or withdraw accreditation are appealable. Institutions on probation remain accredited and eligible for federal funding, including student aid.

SVC President David R. Evans stated in response, "We are working diligently to provide evidence that SVC meets the Commission's Standard on *Institutional Resources*, and are identifying and implementing strategies to better support the institution in the future, including additional fundraising and strategic partnerships. SVC, like other small private colleges in New England and across many regions of the country, is facing exceptionally difficult financial challenges, but we are deeply committed to our mission and are giving our best efforts to ensure its sustainability."

The New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE), formerly operating as the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of NEASC, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education. The Commission accredits 220 degree-granting institutions in the six New England states and 11 American-style institutions in other countries.

Southern Vermont College was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1979 and is a private, independent college offering associate and baccalaureate programs in the liberal arts, business, health, criminal justice, and human services.

Further information may be found at:

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

Southern Vermont College: <https://www.svc.edu>

#####