

JOINT PRESS RELEASE
New England Commission of Higher Education and Southern Vermont College

At its meeting February 28, 2019, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to withdraw accreditation from Southern Vermont College, effective August 31, 2019, with the understanding that the College will cease most operations the Friday following commencement (May 24, 2019). The Commission's decision to withdraw accreditation was based on its finding that Southern Vermont College does not meet the Commission's standard on *Institutional Resources* and does not have realistic plans to come into compliance within the two-year period that would be allowed by federal regulation. Southern Vermont College had previously ceased recruiting new students and has been working diligently to find suitable teach-out partners so that current students can continue their education with minimal disruption.

In response, Southern Vermont College president David R. Evans stated, "We appreciate the Commission's thoroughness and collegiality in evaluating SVC's financial condition and our likelihood of being able to regain financial stability within two years. Recognizing the Commission's concerns and prior to receiving notice of its decision, our board of trustees voted on March 1, 2019 to close the college at the end of the spring. For the remainder of the semester our first priority is to minimize the negative impact on our students, ensure an orderly closure process, and fulfill our ethical, legal, and fiduciary responsibilities. While we deeply regret our circumstances, we are making every effort to support all our stakeholders and work closely with the Commission on all aspects of our closure process."

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>

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