

**New England Commission of Higher Education President Announces Retirement**  
*Commission will begin nationwide search for next leader*

**BURLINGTON, MA (September 23, 2019)** -- Barbara Brittingham today announced her retirement as President of the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) effective July 1, 2020. NECHE, formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of NEASC, is the regional accrediting body for 222 institutions of higher education in the six New England states and 11 American-style institutions in other countries. Brittingham joined the organization in 2000 and has served as its President since 2006.

Brittingham has overseen the growing attention to learning outcomes in the accreditation process, the establishment of NECHE as a separate organization, the closer relationships with state higher education executive officers, the increased use of data in accreditation, and enhanced relationships with institutional and state system governing boards. From 2015-2017 she served as President of the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC) and currently serves on the higher education quality assurance agencies in Iceland and Ireland.

“Serving as President of NECHE is a privilege. The work of the Commission and of its visiting teams and committees is strong testimony to the power of talented volunteers in a robust peer review process to assure the quality of institutions of higher education to the public and support improvement among member institutions,” Brittingham said. “Through the accreditation process we see an extraordinary range of institutions of higher education, dedicated to serving their students and the public. These are challenging times in higher education, and here we see creativity, resilience, dedication to students, leadership, and the honest confrontation of difficult times.”

David Quigley, current Chair of NECHE and Provost and Dean of Faculties at Boston College, noted Brittingham’s leadership in supporting educational quality at the regional, national, and international levels.

“The colleges and universities of New England have benefited enormously from Barbara Brittingham’s leadership as she has combined astute political vision, wide-ranging policy expertise, and a wonderful personal touch,” noted Quigley. “Amid the many challenges confronting higher education, Barbara has been an advocate for innovation and institutional missions on our diverse campuses while always bringing the Commission back to our responsibility to public good. Hers has been a powerful voice on accreditation and higher education policies, and she will leave the Commission a stronger organization for her leadership.”

NECHE will undertake a national search for its next President, with a starting date for the appointee anticipated for July 1, 2020.

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