

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

New England Commission of Higher Education and Hampshire College

At its meeting on November 22, 2019, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) met with representatives of Hampshire College to consider the deferral of the College's show-cause response regarding why it should not be placed on probation or have its accreditation withdrawn because the Commission had reason to believe that Hampshire College is not meeting the Commission's Standards on *Organization and Governance* and *Institutional Resources*.

Due to substantial progress made by Hampshire College since May 2019, the Commission did not place Hampshire College on probation. It voted to continue Hampshire College in accreditation and to affirm the public Notation that Hampshire College is in danger of being found not to meet the standard on *Institutional Resources*. The Commission lifted the notation on *Organization and Governance*. The progress noted by the Commission included the hiring of a new President, substantial achievements with respect to good practices for governing boards, and considerable progress in realistic planning with respect to enrollment, fund-raising, and finances.

In response to the Commission's findings, Hampshire College President Edward Wingenbach stated, "We appreciate NECHE's thoughtful monitoring of Hampshire College's compliance with the accreditation standards. We are very pleased that the Notation on *Organization and Governance* has been lifted, and will continue to be vigilant and proactive in our governance practices. In our report to the Commission, we detailed our realistic plans to ensure continuing financial sustainability, while conveying that it will take time to realize the results we project in fundraising and enrollment. We are very optimistic about what the future will bring, and anticipate that this Notation will further galvanize financial and other support from Hampshire's alumni and friends. We look forward to demonstrating this success when we submit our next report to NECHE in December 2021."

The New England Commission of 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 eleven American-style institutions in other countries.

Hampshire College was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1974 and is a private, independent college offering baccalaureate programs in the liberal arts, calling on students to take responsibility for their education, customize their studies and "move beyond boundaries of disciplines and departments."

Further information may be found at:

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

Hampshire College: <https://www.hampshire.edu>

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