

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### New England Commission of Higher Education and Hellenic College, Inc.

At its meeting on November 21, 2019 the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to place Hellenic College, Inc. on probation for a period not to exceed two years because the Commission found that Hellenic College, Inc. does not now meet the Commission's standards on *Institutional Resources* and *Planning and Evaluation*. The Commission also issued a Notation to the College that it is in danger of not meeting the standards on *Organization and Governance* and *The Academic Program*.

The Commission will monitor the conditions at Hellenic College, Inc. during the period of probation. While on probation, the institution remains accredited and maintains eligibility for federal funding, including student financial aid.

George M. Cantonis, HCHC's new president said, "We want to reassure our students, faculty, staff, donors and larger community that under our new leadership, Hellenic College Holy Cross is taking appropriate action to address NECHE's recommendations. We are implementing plans to increase giving and improve revenue streams, simplify and make effective our governance structure and focus our degree programs. Our financial situation is improving. We ended Fiscal Year 2019 with an excess of revenue over expenses from operations and we are currently operating a balanced budget. We look forward to working with NECHE to address the areas of probation and notation expeditiously and continue our tradition of developing the best clergy and lay leaders."

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), formerly operating as the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, 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.

Hellenic College, Inc. was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1974. It is a private, independent institution encompassing the undergraduate Hellenic College and the graduate Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Further information may be found at:

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

Hellenic College, Inc: <https://www.hchc.edu/>

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