

## Joint Statement

### New England Commission of Higher Education and Eastern Nazarene College

At its meeting on March 5, 2021, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to issue a Notation to Eastern Nazarene College (ENC) because the Commission found that the College is in danger of not meeting the Commission's standard on *Institutional Resources*. Eastern Nazarene College will be closely monitored by the Commission, including through a requested update in Fall 2021 on the institution's financial status with particular focus on reaching its enrollment goals and ensuring that expenses do not exceed actual revenue year-to-year, and through a focused evaluation scheduled in Fall 2022.

If the Commission finds the institution has successfully addressed the concerns, it will remove the Notation and specify further monitoring if needed. If the Commission finds that the concerns have not been sufficiently addressed, the Commission may issue a continued Notation or if the Commission has reason to believe that the institution may not meet one or more of the Standards for Accreditation, the Commission will ask the institution to show cause why it should not be on probation or why its accreditation should not be withdrawn.

Jack Connell, President of Eastern Nazarene College, commented on the actions taken by the Commission: "We are pleased that the Commission has endorsed our mission and our educational quality by reaccrediting ENC. We share the Commission's concern about the financial challenges ENC is facing and are committed to sustained progress on the strategies that will continue to strengthen ENC's financial position – strategies that include growing enrollment, increasing philanthropic support, launching online programs, and diversifying revenue streams." Dr. Melody Eckardt, Chair of the Board of Trustees, commented: "We maintain a profound commitment to the Christ-centered, student-focused educational mission that has been our reason for existence for over 100 years. The board has full confidence in the President and senior leadership of the college to move the college into a preferred future. We will continue to pursue excellence in governance and strategic initiatives to launch ENC into the next 100 years and equip her to effectively serve the church and the world for generations to come."

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education. The Commission accredits 205 degree-granting institutions in the six New England states and eleven American-style institutions in other countries. <https://www.neche.org/>

Eastern Nazarene College was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1943. Eastern Nazarene College is a Christian liberal arts college and member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) with approximately 700 students distributed across residential undergraduate, graduate, and adult studies programs.

<https://enc.edu/>

April 20, 2021

###