

Joint Statement

New England Commission of Higher Education and Bay State College

At its meeting on April 23, 2021, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to ask Bay State College to show cause why the College should not be placed on probation or have its accreditation withdrawn because the Commission has reason to believe that Bay State College does not meet the following Commission standards: *Students; Organization and Governance; Planning and Evaluation; Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship; and Institutional Resources*. The Commission expressed concern about the College's ability to implement its plans to increase enrollment, enhance financial stability, and assure the sufficiency of appropriately qualified faculty and staff. The Commission further noted the lack of robust systems to evaluate educational effectiveness and to use data for planning and institutional improvement.

The show-cause hearing is scheduled for the Commission's November 2021 meeting. Decisions to place an institution on probation or withdraw accreditation are appealable. Institutions placed on probation remain accredited and eligible for federal funding, including student aid.

In response to this action taken by the Commission, Bay State College President Steven Combs said, "we are grateful to the Commission for partnering with us as we undertake broad-based planning and implementation projects, incorporating input from all of the College's constituencies. The processes and actions necessary to meet NECHE standards are already underway, and we will continue to provide any resources needed to achieve this objective. The College is committed to a culture of continuous improvement in our educational offerings and services for our students." Dr. Thomas Clawson, Chairman of Bay State College's Board of Trustees, said "the Board will provide any support the College needs to meet the Commission's standards and is fully committed to ensuring that all corrections will be made."

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.

Bay State College was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 2008. Bay State is a private for-profit college whose mission is to prepare students for successful careers and global citizenship through academic rigor and individualized support. Further information may be found at: <https://www.baystate.edu/>

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

May 20, 2021

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