New England Commission of Higher Education
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210, Wakefield, MA 01880
Tel: 781-425-7785 I www.neche.org

Joint Statement

New England Commission of Higher Education and American International College

On September 24, 2026, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) took action to require American International College to show cause at the Commission's January 2027 meeting why the institution should not be placed on probation or why its accreditation should not be withdrawn because the Commission had reason to believe that American International College may no longer meet its standard on *Institutional Resources*. The Commission's decision was based on (1) continued operating deficits despite signs of enrollment recovery that are projected to total $17.1 million from FY2026 to FY2028; (2) liquidity restraints requiring full use of the College's $8.0 million line of credit and reliance on other one-time cash infusions; and (3) declining unrestricted resources due to the extraordinary endowment draws needed to fund operations with a remaining FY2026 balance of $23.03 million of which $11.45 is permanently restricted.

American International College remains accredited and eligible for federal funding, including student financial aid, while on show cause.

In response to the Commission's decision, American International College's President, Nicolle Cestero, said, "AIC has taken significant action to prioritize its financial sustainability, and has made considerable progress in strengthening the College's long-term viability. Fall 2026 enrollment shows substantial growth from the previous year, net tuition has increased by $4M, retention has reached near-record highs, and expenses have been reduced through strategic decision making. Looking to the coming months, the College is taking further measures to secure its future, including an accelerated strategic plan implementation, full review of programmatic and operational infrastructure, and additional engagement with philanthropic and community partners. We look forward to engaging with NECHE during this process and demonstrating AIC's resilience, adaptability, and capacity to endure."

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The Commission accredits 220 degree-granting institutions and one system in the U.S. and internationally.

American International College was first accredited by NECHE in 1933. It is a private non-profit college, originally established in 1885 to educate French Canadian immigrants, that is now known for serving a population reflective of the world—as well as the diversity of Greater Springfield—that welcomes students to "blaze an incredible future" by building on their individuality, dreams, and resilience.

Further information may be found at:

New England Commission of Higher Education: https://www.neche.org
American International College: https://www.aic.edu

October 6, 2026