

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

New England Commission of Higher Education and Hampshire College

At its meeting April 12, 2019, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to ask Hampshire College to show cause why it should not be placed on probation or have its accreditation withdrawn because the Commission had reason to believe that Hampshire College is not meeting the Commission's Standards on *Organization and Governance* and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*. At its meeting on May 30, 2019 the Commission will consider the information submitted and presented by Hampshire College. If the Commission finds that the College does not meet the standards on *Organization and Governance* and *Institutional Resources*, it will continue the College in accreditation and determine future monitoring. 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.

Interim President Ken Rosenthal said in response, "Hampshire is taking important steps to operate as a smaller college and to fundraise in support our mission, guided by our Board of Trustees. We welcome this opportunity to come before the Commission to present our plans as we restructure and financially reinvigorate the College, and to demonstrate that we remain in full compliance with the Commission's standards. Hampshire was reaccredited last following our decennial evaluation, and we are confident that we will continue to uphold NECHE's standards."

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.neche.org>

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

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