



Practicing What We Preach: A Collaborative Strategy

ROBERT A. WEYGAND

For nearly 20 years, readers have found in the pages of CONNECTION: THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION engaging accounts of best practices in New England education as well as vital analysis and commentary that has helped shape and improve higher education policy and practice. The journal has highlighted programs and initiatives that have blazed new trails to improve quality, access and affordability in higher education. Our readers have consistently praised this work and urged us to continue providing them with such crucial information.

We have embarked on a quest to find partners who share our mission to improve educational opportunities.

Above all, CONNECTION has encouraged collaboration and resource-sharing to improve educational opportunities for New England residents—the very principles upon which the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) was founded nearly half a century ago. So when someone asked us “What new partnerships are you developing for CONNECTION?” it gave us cause to look at our own shop and begin to practice what we preach. Thus, we have embarked on a quest to find partners who share our mission to improve educational opportunities. Our goal was

to establish new relationships for CONNECTION that would continually improve the substance and reach of the journal without compromising the editorial integrity that our readers have come to expect. We have found that strategic collaboration in a trusted friend, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

With this issue, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation and the New England Board of Higher Education are pleased to announce a new partnership in publishing CONNECTION.

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is New England’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving educational attainment and access for underserved populations. The foundation promotes accessibility, quality and effectiveness of education in the six New England states. The foundation works with education institutions and associations, community organizations, foundations, government agencies and others to encourage, establish and maintain programs and services that promote education.

Over the years, NEBHE has collaborated with the foundation on diversity initiatives, conferences, reports and policy development. It seemed like a natural fit for the two organizations to collaborate on CONNECTION.

So what changes are in store for this publication? Well to begin with, CONNECTION will still be the JOURNAL OF THE NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION. You will not see any reduction of the substantive discussions and opinions to which you are accustomed. In fact, you will see an increase in the

breadth and scope of coverage of K–20 issues, under-represented populations, data and reports on education and the economy and a more holistic approach to the staggering complexities of today’s education arena.

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation and the New England Board of Higher Education are pleased to announce a new partnership in publishing CONNECTION.

The foundation will provide valuable input, reports and opinions on the critical issues facing underserved populations and vital commentary and analysis on higher education attainment. Our focus will still be higher education, but clearly if we are to truly understand how to improve educational outcomes, we must consider the context of the education continuum, not just the years of college and beyond.

This is a strong start in redoubling the New England Board of Higher Education’s efforts to provide you with the best discussions, information and opinions on New England higher education.

Robert A. Weygand is president and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education and publisher of CONNECTION.