

# CONNECTION

NEW ENGLAND'S JOURNAL  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## E D I T O R ' S M E M O

We do not customarily use this space to talk about the "back of the book." But two items near the end of this issue of CONNECTION warrant attention.

First, note the *Campus* department, which begins on p. 47. Each quarter, *Campus* captures the collective verve of New England higher education with news on grants, new programs and other key developments from literally dozens of the region's colleges and universities: A University of New Hampshire scientist wins federal funding to develop sweeter, healthier strawberries ... Middlebury College overhauls its undergraduate curriculum ... Naugatuck Valley Community-Technical College establishes an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Technology Center to help the state comply with federal clean air legislation ... University of Rhode Island researchers seek new methods to detect mines under the sea ... the Massachusetts Institute of Technology introduces an intensive course on technical Japanese for materials science engineers ...

*Campus* is an unusually egalitarian place where a National Science Foundation grant of \$74,731 to Elms College for faculty research into thyroid deficiencies is worth the same space as a \$20 million donation to Harvard University from a wealthy alum.

Moreover, education and economic trends tend to be expressed in broad assertions; *Campus* backs up those assertions with specifics. For instance, publications such as CONNECTION have noted that colleges and universities are stepping up efforts to improve K-12 education. This issue's *Campus* department offers readers some concrete examples: Brown University, Hampshire College and the Brown-based Coalition for Essential Schools are bringing high school teachers to campus to help them integrate math and science classes and move away from rote drills and memorization. Bowdoin College is developing interactive three-dimensional animation to help teach biology to high school students. The University of Connecticut is working on ways to improve calculus instruction in high schools across the state. And Dartmouth College is collaborating with New England Telephone and NYNEX to develop an educational network linking campus facilities to area schools, libraries and museums.

*Campus* also provides context for the points advanced in CONNECTION's more cerebral *Cover Stories* and *Commentaries*. For example, what precisely are New England's colleges and universities doing to respond to the new realities of work and the workforce — the focus of this issue's *Cover Stories*? Some are introducing new academic programs in specialized fields. This issue's *Campus* reports on new academic offerings from a bachelor's degree program in architectural engineering technology at Vermont Technical College to a doctoral program in environmental studies at Antioch New England Graduate School — and more.

If *Campus* offers a snapshot of New England higher education, the other item in the back of the book — *Seven Years of CONNECTION* — provides a long view of the evolution of New England's higher education-economic development nexus. This seven-year index of CONNECTION articles begins on p. 52.

The index reveals the persistence of some of the tough problems facing New England as well as the changes that have swept the region and the higher education landscape since the journal's debut in 1986. Articles from the journal's first year of publication, for example, focus on topics that still nag New England, such as rising college costs and the underrepresentation of minorities at the region's colleges and universities, but also on the superpower arms race and "Remarkable Growth in State Support" of New England higher education.

Notably, the index also reveals that work and the workforce has occupied a prominent place in CONNECTION from the beginning. The *problem*, however, has changed. As recently as 1989, the journal explored the region's labor shortage. Now, of course, it's jobs that are in short supply.

The index is a tool. We urge you to mark it up, photocopy it, fax it to a colleague and, most of all, use it to order back issues of CONNECTION.

*John O. Harney is the editor of CONNECTION*