



NEW ENGLAND BOARD  
*of* HIGHER EDUCATION



ANNUAL  
REPORT **2016**

## **Our Mission**

Higher education is New England's most critical sustainable resource. The region's governors knew that 60 years ago when they founded the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE).

Today, NEBHE promotes greater education opportunities and services for the residents of New England and its more than 270 colleges and universities. It works across the six New England states to help leaders assess, develop and implement sound education practices and policies of regional significance; to promote regional cooperation and programs that encourage the efficient use and sharing of educational resources; and to strengthen the relationship between higher education and the economic well-being and quality of life in New England.

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

The New England states possess a number of distinctive assets to which few other regions in the world can lay claim.

The first is our beautiful natural resources. The ocean, forests, lakes and rivers provided the region's economic foundation in previous centuries and have made New England one of America's most visited places. The second is our history. As a cradle of liberty and innovation, New England has been inclined to lead on ideals and issues, rather than to follow. The third is our people. New Englanders are resourceful and able to do a lot with a little. Also, remember New England's 270 colleges and universities—fountainheads of human talent, intellectual capital, cultural vibrancy and technological innovation.

Yet we also face complex challenges. The region is aging and in many instances, burdened by skills mismatches. We're also losing our longstanding educational advantage. Gaps in college readiness and completion persist between haves and have-nots. Postsecondary education in New England is the most expensive in the nation. Our colleges and universities face increasing competition, within the region and beyond. The economic models and funding strategies serving many of them are outmoded and unsustainable.

It's time to draw upon our resourceful instincts—as those six governors did more over than 60 years ago when they founded the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) as the platform on which the region's colleges and universities, policymakers and leaders could collaboratively address shared challenges and opportunities.

The 2015-16 academic and fiscal year was one of innovation and collaboration at NEBHE:

- Through its online journal and outstanding leadership conferences and professional development opportunities, NEBHE provided leaders of New England colleges and universities with affordable ways to access expert knowledge and strategic perspectives on emerging issues.
- Through its Higher Education Innovation Challenge, NEBHE engaged institutional leaders in addressing, head-on, the critical issues of cost and economic sustainability, while developing analytical tools and consulting directly with campuses.
- NEBHE ensured that New England states and institutions played a leadership role in national efforts to elevate standards for high-quality online learning and to increase consumer protection.
- NEBHE helped New England students and families save millions in tuition and fees, supported access and completion, and helped colleges and universities drive critical enrollment growth in new and specialized programs.
- NEBHE provided consulting services, technical assistance, research and analysis to state policymakers and college and university leaders. It aided several states in redesigning financial aid systems, supported strategic planning processes and drove the innovative redesign of remedial education programs.



Amid continued resource constraints and ongoing uncertainty, collaboration among the states and our higher education institutions will be the key to innovation and reinvention. NEBHE will continue to be a critical resource in addressing new and longstanding challenges.

Please join us in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael K. Thomas  
President & CEO  
New England Board of Higher Education

# FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends:

There is no other organization like the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE).

Here's a bit about how this vital entity began.

From 1939 to 1954, college enrollment in New England nearly doubled, rising from 88,428 to 172,093. Also in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling ushered in an era of progress toward equal educational opportunity. Cold War-inspired research helped New England universities become research giants. But at the same time, the regional economy was challenged when the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway bypassed New England's once-thriving ports.

Against this backdrop, six visionary New England governors created the New England Higher Education Compact. In 1955, the New England Board of Higher Education was established to pursue the Compact's aims, namely to expand educational opportunity and foster cooperation among the region's colleges and universities.

Within a few years, NEBHE published the report *Two Surveys*, the predecessor of our annual *Guide to New England Colleges & Universities*. At the time, college graduates accounted for only 8% of the U.S. population. Anticipating increased demand for higher education, NEBHE predicted a shortage of higher education facilities and resources in New England and set to work mobilizing "the small states" to think big. Several began establishing community and technical colleges. NEBHE, meanwhile, obtained funds to study the supply and quality of college faculty in New England and to study the use of educational television in the region's colleges and universities.



Then and now, NEBHE has had its eye on how higher education strengthens New England. Today, NEBHE provides top-notch conferences and professional development opportunities for leaders of New England colleges and universities and helps save New England families millions in tuition, while supporting new and specialized college programs. NEBHE brings together diverse perspectives with its 48-member board, its Legislative Advisory Committee and America's only regional journal on higher education, *The New England Journal of Higher Education*.

NEBHE is a unique organization that is well-situated to help New England institutions meet the rising tide of new challenges. NEBHE and its board are working to improve the adaptability and sustainability of the Tuition Break program, increase the involvement of independent institutions and the region's business community, and maintain NEBHE's financial well-being in an environment of tightening state budgets. This entails generating more revenues from grants and conferences, strengthening NEBHE's brand and reach by leveraging important endeavors such as College Ready New England, and future iterations

of NEBHE's prestigious New England Higher Education Excellence Awards.

New England's future in the globalized economy is in higher education and a smart citizenry! A strong NEBHE will continue to serve as a critical ingredient in a strong New England.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wool". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Wool  
Chair  
New England Board of Higher Education



Leading policy dialogue, raising awareness, building bridges, sparking collaboration, fostering innovation ... that's **NEBHE** ingenuity. Here's how our programs make big impacts across New England and beyond.



NEBHE plays a number of **key leadership roles** that make it unique in its ability to serve the New England states and to contribute to higher education issues nationally:

- **Policy Leadership and Dialogue:** NEBHE engages policymakers at the highest levels in the six New England states, including: governors and their education advisors; legislators; state P-12 and higher education commissioners; leaders at public and independent colleges and universities; as well as industry.
- **Raising Awareness:** NEBHE draws attention to key issues related to higher education that are important to the region's stakeholders—catalyzing awareness, analysis, discussion and policy change.
- **Leadership Convener and Bridge Builder:** NEBHE regularly convenes top leaders and decision-makers from P-12 and higher education, industry, government and the nonprofit sector—creating the critical cross-sector conversations that lead to change, collaboration, alignment and innovation.
- **Regional Collaboration Platform:** NEBHE develops and executes collaborative, multistate projects and programs that maximize cost savings, expand resource efficiency, promote innovation, support policy adoption and forge cross-state alignment and integration. NEBHE's expert staff and notable network of state, regional and national collaborators lower the cost and increase the impact of collaborative work among multiple states, partners and entities.
- **Capacity Builder:** NEBHE provides multiple professional development and training opportunities to key leaders in education, government and business. It launches innovation-oriented projects that build best practices, cutting-edge tools and expertise to support policy and program transformation.
- **Innovation Accelerator:** NEBHE launches innovative experiments and pilot projects. It accelerates and supports the adoption of new education models across the region's diverse institutions and stakeholder organizations.
- **Consultant and Advisor:** NEBHE conducts policy research, analysis, technical assistance and advising on state and institutional policy and program issues. It has a reputation for providing neutral, unbiased appraisals of key issues, topics, policies and proposals.
- **Program Developer and Manager:** NEBHE has extensive experience in creating and managing multi-party collaborative projects/programs, including: proposal development, grant cultivation and management, fiscal agency, project management, implementation and evaluation.

**61** years  
since **6** visionary  
governors  
committed to the **New**  
**England Higher**  
**Education Compact,**  
creating **NEBHE**  
*see page 3*

**100,000**  
copies  
distributed  
of the 2016 **GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND**  
**COLLEGES AND**  
**UNIVERSITIES**  
*see page 11*

**44** states **and** **1,000**  
and territories institutions  
have  
joined **SARA**  
*see page 15*

**over 1,000** attendees  
at our 2016 **events** and  
**professional development**  
**convenings**  
*see page 19*



**\$58 million**

amount saved by

**New England families**

in **FY2016** through NEBHE's

**tuition break**

...and

**\$1 billion**

**saved since 1958**

*see page 9*

**800+**

graduate & undergraduate  
**programs**

**discounted** through

**tuition break**

*see page 9*

**\$7,900**

average

**tuition break**

**savings** per student

*see page 9*

The **Regional Student Program Tuition Break** cuts tuition costs for New England residents, promotes access to specialized degree programs, and helps the region's public colleges and universities attract and retain high-quality students.



*“Had it not been for the RSP Tuition Break I wouldn’t be working in my dream job. It also lessened the financial burden of high student loan payments, particularly in the years following graduation when I was earning a low salary but gaining valuable experience. Thank you NEBHE!”*

**Hayley LaPoint Politis**

Broadcast Meteorologist, WMUR-TV, Manchester, NH

RSP programs: Meteorology (B.S.) and TV News (A.S.), Lyndon State College, Lyndonville, Vermont

**Tuition Break**, the longest-running tuition reciprocity program in the U.S., next year will celebrate its 60th year.

The Tuition Break program is even more important today than it was back then—as institutions compete for fewer high school graduates, families struggle to afford college, and New England worries about losing students and workers to other regions.

Specifically, Tuition Break expands college opportunities within New England for eligible students while significantly lowering their tuition. Students gain access to specialized programs not offered by their home-state public colleges and to some colleges near state borders that are closer to home.

The RSP has helped New England families save more than \$1 billion on their tuition bills since its first year of enrollment in 1958. RSP students saved about \$58 million on their tuition bills in FY 2016. A full-time student saved an average of \$7,900. For every dollar the six New England states invest in NEBHE, their residents receive \$52 in RSP tuition savings.

New England’s 82 participating public colleges and universities received nearly \$70 million in tuition payments from RSP students as well as nearly \$43 million in mandatory fees. The colleges benefit from NEBHE’s extensive promotion of their specialized degree programs to out-of-state students.

Individual states benefit by avoiding the substantial costs of developing and operating academic programs already offered under the RSP to their residents.

More than 800 undergraduate and graduate degree programs are offered through the RSP, and the number grows each year.

The participating higher education institutions add approximately 30 new programs every year. Many programs are in emerging and specialized STEM fields—such as cybersecurity, precision manufacturing and sustainability.

NEBHE provides valuable marketing muscle for participating institutions and programs. This year NEBHE’s outreach for the Tuition Break program included:

- Contact with students and families at more than 60 college fairs and events
- Distribution of more than 28,000 brochures and print materials to high schools, libraries and college planning centers, as well as students and families
- Regular communication with 3,600 high school counselors and more than 150 deans, directors and staff at 82 participating institutions, and state legislators
- Media coverage and advertisements in publications, including the *2016 Guide to New England Colleges*
- User-friendly, comprehensive information at [www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak](http://www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak) and social media promotion through Facebook and Twitter.

The New England Journal of Higher Education (NEJHE) is America's only regional journal focused on higher education's crucial impacts on economic development and quality of life.



*“NEJHE is an extremely valuable part of NEBHE’s suite of services. It keeps people up-to-date on current issues while alerting them to innovations and change. A timely resource for busy leaders in a rapidly changing world.”*

**Peter Smith**

Founding President of Vermont Community College, now Orkand Chair at the University of Maryland University College

*The New England Journal of Higher Education (NEJHE)* is the go-to source for information on New England higher education. From NEBHE’s beginnings in the 1950s, the journal has offered a platform for the latest thinking among opinion leaders and practitioners in education, business, government and the nonprofit sector.

*NEJHE* offers commentary and analysis about New England higher education and its relationship to the economy and quality of life. Our authors are experts in education, business, government and the civic sector. Recent articles have explored diverse and timely subjects ranging from regional jobs and budget reports to children’s savings accounts to remedial math to issues such as sexual assault, paying college athletes and faculty organizing.

Among recent *NEJHE* stories:

- New Hampshire Community College Chancellor Ross Gittel and Jeremy Hitchcock, founder of Dyn, a Granite State-based internet performance management company, call on industry and community college leaders to work together to build bridges and guided pathways that support economic opportunity and employment growth
- Sara M. Flowers of the Maine College of Health Professions explains how the Danish concept of folkehøjskoles—similar to U.S. “gap-year” programs—could bolster New England’s fortunes
- Regis College President Antoinette Hayes describes a plan to nurse degree attainment in a Gateway City.

*NEJHE*’s recent work on the **Higher Education Innovation Challenge** aimed to help colleges and universities tackle threats from shifts in academic content and delivery, student demography and institutional finances—all set against the background of both rising expectations and eroding public perceptions of higher education. *NEJHE* hosts an online Toolkit page, including an Institutional Indicators tool to help higher education institutions identify and analyze critical indicators that influence immediate and long-term institutional sustainability, as well as a collection of articles, books, links and other analytical resources to help facilitate campuswide understanding of student cost-reduction and institutional sustainability strategies.

*NEJHE* also features event announcements, comings and goings on campus, state education news, and federal news through its **DC Shuttle** column—a collaboration with the New England Council.

*NEJHE* collaborates with **Radio Higher Ed** to feature podcasts on higher education issues and with the **New England Higher Education Recruitment Consortium** to post current job openings in higher education.

NEBHE collaborates with **Boston** magazine on its well-respected annual directory, the **Guide to New England Colleges and Universities**. The *Guide* reaches 80,000 readers of *Boston* magazine, and NEBHE distributes 20,000 copies to guidance counselors and public libraries throughout New England, as well as to prospective students and families at college fairs and other events.

*NEJHE*’s outstanding content is distributed via Twitter and Facebook, and emailed to opinion leaders in our weekly *NEJHE NewsBlast*. *NEJHE* material is frequently cited and re-posted by regional and national media, amplifying the journal’s impact.



# POLICY & RESEARCH

NEBHE's Policy & Research (P&R) provides data and expert analysis, shares best practices, and brings decision-makers together to support innovation in higher education policies and programs.

NEBHE's **Policy and Research** team is a trusted resource to education, government and business leaders throughout New England. NEBHE's P&R:

- Helps states and institutions pursue innovative policies and practices
- Offers a platform for exchanging best practices and policy perspectives
- Provides New England higher education decision-makers with custom research and technical expertise
- Supports interstate collaborations to create shared solutions to common challenges and policy issues.

The P&R team provides timely information, research and analysis on issues related to higher education and workforce development. Members of the Policy and Research team engage with New England state and regional leaders on issues such as affordability; developmental education; college completion; innovative higher education business and classroom models; institutional cost; and performance-based funding.

In FY 2016, NEBHE P&R:

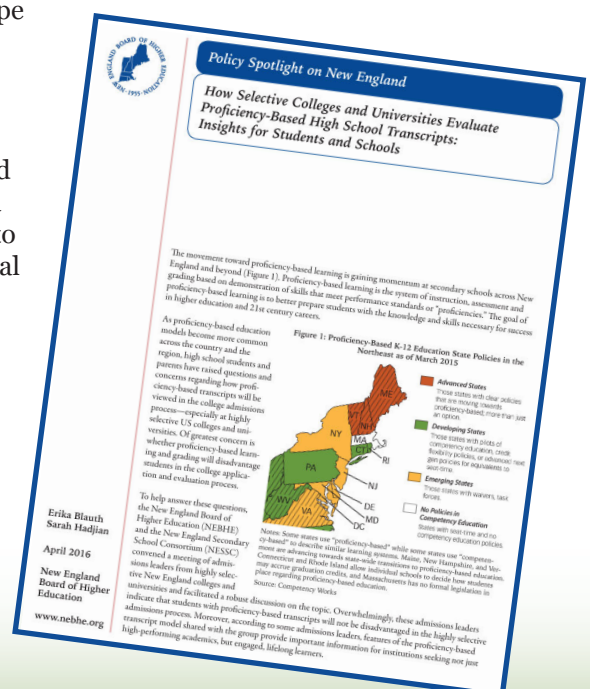
- Provided regionally focused research and evidence to support institution- and system-level tuition setting and strategic planning
- Informed state legislative action on key higher education issues, such as student loans and distance education, through NEBHE's Legislative Advisory Committee, a forum for sharing state-level policy strategies among legislators across the region
- Attracted nearly half a million dollars from national foundations and partners to support work on nationwide challenges such as college affordability, student aid, developmental education reform and student transfer
- Worked with national partners to provide support and technical assistance to New England states on issues such as open educational resources, creating learner-centered institutions, outcomes-based funding models and workforce development.

Representative P&R publications included:

- *Policy Spotlight on New England: A Look at the Relationship between Policy and Practice in K-12 Education Reform*
- *New England Fast Facts: College Readiness in New England*
- *Policy Spotlight on New England: How Selective Colleges and Universities Evaluate Proficiency-Based High School Transcripts*
- *New England Fast Facts: The Price of Public Colleges in New England*
- *Redesigning Student Aid in New England: Strengthening State Investment in College Affordability*
- *New England Fast Facts: The Region's Higher Education Landscape*
- *Policy Spotlight on New England: Dual Admissions for Transfer Students*
- *New England Fast Facts: Student Transfer*

NEBHE's **Developmental Math Demonstration Project** worked with 1,226 New England students and 37 faculty members at nearly a dozen community colleges to pilot Khan Academy content and tools to improve student outcomes and accelerate the reform of developmental math programming.

The **Redesigning Student Aid in New England** project helped three states redesign and align their student financial aid policies, priorities and programs with state needs to increase postsecondary attainment.



# STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT

The **State Authorization and Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)** raises the quality and consistency of standards for the delivery of high-quality online learning; increases consumer protection; and helps New England institutions remain competitive, cost-effective providers of online learning.







*“Rhode Island has now become one of the premier student and consumer protection authorities in this area. We have greatly appreciated the guidance and expertise of NEBHE helping us grow into our new role.”*

**Michael A. Walker-Jones**

Assistant Commissioner for External Relations, Rhode Island Office of the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

The nation and the New England region need to expand the number of individuals attaining a high-quality postsecondary credential—and many such individuals, including working adults, will benefit from the ability to access online programs that meet the demands of their complex lives.

The **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)** demonstrates how states and institutions can work together to promote quality, consumer protection and efficiency to address the needs of students they serve across state borders via online degree programs.

Since 2014, NEBHE and its three peer regional compacts (WICHE, MHEC and SREB), along with the National Council on State Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), have played primary leadership roles in developing and implementing a new nationwide reciprocity framework.

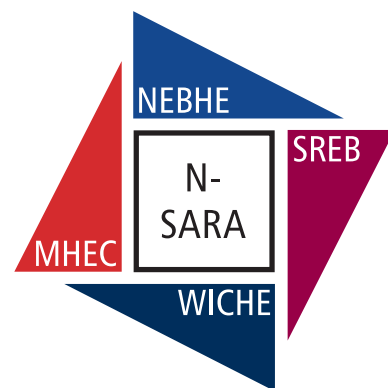
Imagine having to obtain a different driver’s license for every state in the nation? Previously, federal regulations requiring colleges and universities to be authorized in the states to which they deliver online learning programs had resulted in:

- An inconsistent patchwork of state requirements for institutional authorization
- A complicated and expensive maze of regulatory processes, applications and fees, which increased institutions’ online program delivery costs and limited their ability to offer quality specialized programs online
- Wide variations in the benefits and protections afforded to student consumers of online programs
- Difficulties and inconsistencies in working across state borders to resolve student concerns and complaints.

The solution? Key national organizations, state authorizers, consumer protection organizations and other higher education stakeholders developed a reciprocity framework that makes it possible for institutions to provide distance learning across state borders with a single authorization obtained from the institution’s home state. In essence, SARA creates a single driver’s license for all participating states.

What have the results of NEBHE’s work—and that of its state, regional and national collaborators—been for New England and the nation?

- As of September 2016, 44 states and territories had joined SARA
- More than 1,000 institutions have been reviewed and accepted for participation based on compliance with high and consistent standards for quality, financial sustainability and consumer protection
- Over one million students have enhanced access to distance education, growing daily
- Five of the six New England states have chosen to participate and enacted legislation, paving the way for their respective colleges and universities to participate
- SARA has drastically reduced regulatory fees and increased the availability of distance education programs to students; one New England institution reports a savings of over \$250,000 per year
- NEBHE has also worked with two non-compact states in the Northeast, New Jersey and New York, that both anticipate joining SARA in fall 2016
- SARA supports the first-ever collection of enrollment data, publicly available on the national SARA website, to illuminate patterns and levels of cross-border online program delivery
- SARA has established stronger complaint-reporting processes that ensure rigorous guidelines for member institutions and transparency to students and parents.



# PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

NEBHE's Problem-Based Learning (PBL) initiatives help schools, teachers and students revolutionize STEM learning and teaching processes, build 21st century skills, and provide tools and resources enabling innovative teaching in STEM disciplines.



*“Although the process of student embracement of the Good Learner concepts is taking somewhat longer than expected, it’s definitely working. Students continue to openly discuss the relevance, dependability and accuracy of the concepts with their classmates, and teachers of non-STEM subjects. Teachers have actually asked me for your [resources] in order to begin a similar process with their students. As you stated multiple times, going from an acceptable ‘spectator’ to a self-evaluator/planner/monitor takes more than just one class period. My objective remains effective and productive Problem-Based Learning, which I now understand requires students that appreciate the characteristics that make them so good at what they do.”*

**Felix Giordano**

STEM Teacher, Hartford Public Schools

For more than 25 years, NEBHE has been dedicated to improving student learning outcomes in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education by enhancing student-centered approaches to curriculum and instruction. NEBHE’s **Problem-Based Learning (PBL)** project, Advanced Manufacturing PBL, was the most recent in a series of curriculum and professional development projects. Since 2006, each National Science Foundation (NSF) PBL-funded grant developed a curriculum of interdisciplinary, multimedia real-world Challenges (case studies) in partnership with industry.

To address the dynamic changes of today’s workforce and its need for 21st century skills, NEBHE’s PBL Projects are evolving into a resource center whose mission is to transform pedagogy in a way that supports and engages active learning in:

- K-12 settings
- Postsecondary institutions
- Community-based organizations
- Industry partner organizations.

Our goal is to develop student readiness through education-to-career pathways for those unlikely to succeed in a routine classroom. Recent and specific examples of NEBHE’s work include:

- **Hartford Public Schools:** Connecticut school district made up of 17 high schools and 33 K-8 schools; NEBHE worked with 85-90 teachers from nearly two dozen schools to implement PBL strategies
- **YouthBuild:** Nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide young people with positive life experiences and opportunities through acts of responsibility for themselves and their communities; NEBHE has conducted PBL training for three YouthBuild organizations in Providence, Hartford and Newark, New Jersey
- **Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (CAMI):** A U.S. Department of Labor TAACCCT-funded grant to expand and advance manufacturing programs in seven of the state’s community colleges.

Our balanced approach to teaching is a model used to help educators achieve a balance between the three main components to teaching and learning (student, teacher, curriculum), the interactions between them, and their effect on learning outcomes. NEBHE utilizes a systems approach to working with educators to support curriculum development and the balance between:

- **A good student and a good learner:** Moving from answering questions to asking questions by developing self-regulation skills, problem-solving and critical thinking
- **Teacher-centered teaching and student-centered teaching:** Moving from lectured instruction to facilitating learning
- **Technical skills and employability skills:** Moving from content knowledge to application of knowledge and 21st century skills.

Through professional development and ongoing guidance, NEBHE will continue to expand beyond the workshop model to support educators in adopting this balanced approach to teaching and learning.

# CONFERENCES & EVENTS



**NEBHE** is New England's foremost convenor on cutting-edge issues in higher education and the many economic and social issues shaping higher education.



Top decision-makers in higher education, business and government look to NEBHE to understand emerging issues and best practices.

NEBHE in 2015-16 continued to convene thinkers at its **high-quality conferences**. Such activities have reinforced the perception of NEBHE as the region's top convener of senior leaders on issues related to higher education, public policy and the economy.

Here is a sample of NEBHE's outstanding conferences and professional development events ...

- **Learner-Centered Institutions: The Future of Higher Education** (*October 2015*)

This event brought together hundreds of thought leaders and educators at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to explore what it really means to be a “learner-centered college or university.”

Speakers included State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Columbia University's community college guru Thomas Bailey, Institute for Academic Leadership Director Lawrence G. Abele, CUNY University Dean for Student Success Initiatives Donna Linderman, Complete College America Vice President of Strategy Julie Johnson, *Inside Higher Ed* co-founder Scott Jaschik and Big Picture Learning co-founder Dennis Littky.

- **Re-Envisioning Higher Education Economic Models** (*April 2016*)

NEBHE and RSM, the premier affiliation of independent accounting and consulting firms, held an executive lunch briefing for senior higher education executives and board leaders to help colleges and universities develop greater understanding of their respective business/economic models and of possible changes, alternatives and strategic responses. From Amazon to Uber, new models are transforming industry landscapes. Colleges and universities—long viewed as largely insulated from drastic change or industry shifts—increasingly face a world of fast-moving, technology-fueled forces that are altering the value propositions and value-creation chain of higher education.

A lineup of luminary speakers included Lasell College President Michael B. Alexander and former Mercy College President turned consultant Lucy Lapovsky.

- **Effective Cost and Margin Profiles for Higher Education Institutions and Programs** (*April 2015*)

NEBHE and RSM (then known as McGladrey LCC) convened this lunch briefing for senior leaders to help colleges and universities develop high-impact cost and margin profiles for use with trustees, faculty and staff. Specific topics focused on key cost definitions in colleges and universities, critical cost measures and frameworks, cracking the code of academic program costs and developing meaningful financial margin models.

The roster of speakers included UMass Lowell Vice Chancellor Joanne Yestramski and University of Southern Maine Provost and Vice President Joe McDonnell.

Other NEBHE professional development programs around New England focused on issues such as goal-setting and educational attainment as well as models for remedial education.

Video clips, summaries and presentations from these and other outstanding events are available online via NEBHE's website at **[www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org)**.

*Clockwise from top left:*

**Scott Jaschik**, Co-founder and Editor, *Inside Higher Ed*; and **Donna Linderman**, University Dean for Student Success and Initiatives, Director of Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), City University of New York  
**Jacalyn Askin**, Economic Models Project Manager, National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)  
**Nancy Zimpher**, Chancellor, State University of New York  
**Nancy Wyman**, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut  
**Steven R. DiSalvo**, President, Saint Anselm College  
**Mim Runey**, President, Johnson & Wales University  
**Mark Rubinstein**, President, Granite State College  
**Michael B. Alexander**, President, Lasell College  
**Dennis Jones**, President, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) (*center*)

# NEW ENGLAND HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE



**NEBHE** is the region's top organization to formally recognize individuals and groups that show exceptional leadership on behalf of higher education and the advancement of educational opportunity.



Since 2003, NEBHE has formally recognized people and groups who show exceptional leadership on behalf of higher education and advancement of educational opportunity.

In 2016, the **New England Higher Education Excellence Awards** recipients included:

The David and Rosamond Putnam Family of New Hampshire: *The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership*

Dana Mohler-Faria, Former President, Bridgewater State University: *The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement*

Barbara Murphy, President Emerita, Johnson State College: *The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement*

Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont: *The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement*

Rev. David Cannon, Former Chair, Connecticut Community Colleges: *The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship*

Alex and Ani: *Business Contribution to Higher Education Award*

Cianbro: *Business Contribution to Higher Education Award*

The Whitcraft Group, LLC: *Business Contribution to Higher Education Award*

Jeffrey Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut: *Connecticut State Merit Award*

Personalized Learning Program at the University of Maine Presque Isle: *Maine State Merit Award*

Ahmed Abdelal, Provost, University of Massachusetts Lowell: *Massachusetts State Merit Award*

Dana Hamel: *New Hampshire State Merit Award*

Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed: *Rhode Island State Merit Award*

Atmospheric Sciences Program, Lyndon State College: *Vermont State Merit Award*

Other past Excellence Awardees have included the late U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, noted oceanographer Robert D. Ballard; Dartmouth College President emeritus James Wright; and Eastern Connecticut State University President Elsa M. Núñez.

*Clockwise from top left:*

**Marty Meehan**, President, University of Massachusetts; **Ahmed Abdelal**, Provost, University of Massachusetts Lowell;

**Michael K. Thomas**, NEBHE President & CEO; and **Michael Wool**, NEBHE Chair

**Hanna M. Gallo**, Senator, Rhode Island State Senate; and **M. Teresa Paiva Weed**, Senate President, Rhode Island State Senate

**Jeff Paul**, CEO, Whitcraft Group

**Rev. David Cannon**, Former Chair, Connecticut Community Colleges; and **Andrew McKirdy**, Chancellor Emeritus, Connecticut Community College System

**Roberta Willis**, Representative, Connecticut House of Representatives; **Jeffrey Fisher**, Director, Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut; **Wool; Thomas**

**Dana Mohler-Faria**, Former President, Bridgewater State University; and **Marc R. Pacheco**, Senator, Massachusetts State Senate

**Joyce M. Judy**, President, Community College of Vermont; and **Barbara Murphy**, President Emerita, Johnson State College (top center)

**Dana Hamel** (bottom center)

# THE PETERSON CENTER AT 45 TEMPLE PLACE

A new 45 ... the newly renovated **NEBHE headquarters** at 45 Temple Place in Boston's vibrant Downtown Crossing is the place where higher education leaders come together to talk, collaborate and innovate!

NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION





In spring 2016, NEBHE completed an extensive renovation of its building at **45 Temple Place** in buzzing downtown Boston. The building now boasts a new façade, redesigned conference space and upgraded infrastructure. In addition to housing NEBHE staff, 45 Temple is home to two other higher education organizations that serve New England and the nation: the Massachusetts and national offices of **Campus Compact**.

In 2012, NEBHE named the headquarters **The Peterson Center** in honor of the late NEBHE Chair and New Hampshire Gov. Walter Peterson (1922-2011).

45 Temple Place is the place where New England educators meet. With ideal proximity to North and South Stations and Greater Boston's extensive public transportation system, major interstate highways, the Massachusetts State House, Logan Airport, and the area's constellation of colleges and universities, NEBHE is at the "Hub" and the heart of New England higher education.

NEBHE's conference and meeting space is available to higher education, policy and other groups upon request.



*Clockwise from top left:* Board member **Andrew Peterson** (son of the late New Hampshire Gov. Walter Peterson) cuts ribbon as NEBHE President & CEO **Michael K. Thomas** and former NEBHE Chair **Marc S. Herzog** look on; several members of the NEBHE board and staff watch the dedication; board member **David J. Wahr**, whose guidance was central to the renovation, receives an honorary plaque from President **Thomas**; the conference room at 45 Temple Place.

# A TIMELINE

**1955:** The **New England Board of Higher Education** is established to implement the New England Higher Education Compact, and expand educational opportunity and foster cooperation among the region's colleges and universities.

**1957:** NEBHE establishes the **New England Regional Student Program**, enabling New England students to pay a lower tuition rate at out-of-state public land-grant universities within New England if they pursue certain academic programs that are not offered by their home state's public institutions. The RSP would invite community and technical colleges in 1967 and state colleges in 1972.

**1979:** NEBHE creates the **Commission on Higher Education and the Economy of New England**, comprising college presidents, labor officials, professors, bank executives, publishers and business leaders. It is the first of several NEBHE commissions to hold conferences and release publications on diverse issues such as biotechnology, distance learning, international competitiveness, the legal profession, human capital and higher education retirement plans.

**1986:** NEBHE begins publishing quarterly journal, titled **Connection: New England's Journal of Higher Education and Economic Development**. In 2007, the journal is rebranded as the *New England Journal of Higher Education*, and in 2010, moved entirely online at [www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org).

**1988:** NEBHE launches a two-year **New England Public Policy Collaborative** to provide a regional framework for the region's policy research expertise and enhance access to policy research. Funded by the AT&T Foundation, the collaborative hosts two regional "New England Agenda" conferences and introduces a NEBHE web page linking 300 public policy research centers and institutes.

**1993:** NEBHE creates the **New England Technical Education Partnership**, bringing together educators and other professionals to improve New England's two-year technical education programs.

**2003:** NEBHE launches **New England Higher Education Excellence Awards** to honor New England individuals and organizations who show exceptional leadership in behalf of higher education, public policy or the advancement of educational opportunity.

**2003:** NEBHE launches **Project PHOTON2**, an initiative funded by the National Science Foundation to give educators the knowledge and resources needed to implement and teach photonics technology at their own institutions.

**2006:** NEBHE launches **College Ready New England** initiative to encourage more New England students to prepare for, enroll in and graduate from New England colleges and universities.

**2011:** In collaboration with *Boston* magazine, NEBHE revives its well-respected **Annual Directory to New England Colleges and Universities** (now called the *Guide*). NEBHE conducts the research and *Boston* magazine manages ad sales and printing of the publication.



**2012:** NEBHE and the Davis Educational Foundation convene more than 400 academic, philanthropic and education leaders in a series of discussions to explore innovative strategies identified by regional leaders to address cost and affordability issues challenging the region's institutions and its students. NEBHE then worked with the foundation to launch the **Higher Education Innovation Challenge**—honing a set of tools and resources that campus leaders can access

to increase understanding, initiate conversations and guide campuswide discussions about the sustainability threats and strategic stability challenges campuses are confronting.

**2012:** NEBHE receives a \$356,200 grant from Lumina Foundation to support the **Developmental Math Demonstration Project**, which provides a high-quality, low-cost instructional platform coupling Khan Academy and community college resources.

**2015:** NEBHE launches the New England component of the national **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement**, or **SARA**, funded by a \$3 million grant from Lumina Foundation and \$200,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Once a state joins SARA, accredited degree-granting institutions in the state that offer distance education courses can seek approval from their state to participate in SARA. New Hampshire was the first New England state to join, followed by Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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Program and Outreach Coordinator, Tuition Break  
& New England State Authorization Reciprocity  
Agreement (SARA)

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**Monica Reum**  
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**Sandra J. Doran, Esq.**  
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