



NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Spring 2022 Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Monday, March 14, 2022 Hybrid at Lasell University (Room 110) and Via Zoom Video Conference

Agenda

8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Sign On to Video Conference

Dial-In:

Zoom link: <https://nebhe.org/zoom/president>

No password required

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Introduction to the LAC and NEBHE Updates

Senator David Watters, New Hampshire | Co-Chair, Legislative Advisory Committee

Michael K. Thomas | President, New England Board of Higher Education

9:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Doing the Most with the Least: How State Policymakers Can Support Wellbeing, Belonging and Success at Community Colleges for an Equitable Pandemic Recovery

9:10 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Framing the Conversation: Key Data Points and Trends

Rachael Conway | Policy and Research Consultant, New England Board of Higher Education

Senator David Watters, New Hampshire (Moderator) | Co-chair, Legislative Advisory Committee

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Panelist Introductions

Members of the panel will briefly introduce themselves and their relationship to the panel topic.

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Q&A

Committee members will have the opportunity to ask the panelists questions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a deep demand for wrap-around support systems at the nation's community colleges to ensure students can access stable housing, nutrition, technology, and other basic needs for learning. Additionally, it has exacerbated existing challenges to building strong relationships, both peer-to-peer and among students, faculty, and staff. Unfortunately, community colleges have also been hit hard by COVID: enrollment since fall 2020 has declined nationally by [13.2%](#) (more than any other postsecondary sector) and staff have had to work harder than ever to keep students engaged. As states consider how to pursue an equitable pandemic recovery, community colleges—which are historically underfunded despite shouldering the largest group of nontraditional students with exceptional needs—must be at the center of the conversation. This session will introduce a panel of national experts, community college presidents and staff, and a

current student to share expertise on what community colleges need from state policymakers to foster community and belonging on campuses and create spaces where students can thrive.

Speakers:

National Trends: Community Colleges and Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab | Founder, The Hope Center for Community, College and Justice; Award-winning author of [Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream](#), "[Addressing Community College Completion Rates by Securing Students' Basic Needs](#)," Member of *Education Week's* Top 10 Education Scholars, and more

Dr. Linda García | Executive Director, Center for Community College Student Engagement, The University of Texas at Austin

Regional Perspectives from Community College Presidents

Dr. Pam Eddinger | President, Bunker Hill Community College, Boston, MA; Chair, Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships, U.S. Department of Labor; named one of eleven "[Champions of Change for College Opportunity](#)" in 2016 by the Obama Administration

Alfred Williams | President, River Valley Community College, New Hampshire

On-the-Ground Perspective: Northern Essex Community College's Student Ambassadors Program

Audrey Ellis | Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Northern Essex Community College

Eudania Aquino | Student Ambassador, Northern Essex Community College

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 – 12:00 p.m. State Updates: Priorities for Your Legislative Sessions

LAC members share session updates related to higher education legislation and key policy issues, as well as higher education budget priorities and challenges in their states.

Moderator: Rachael Conway | Policy and Research Consultant, New England Board of Higher Education

12:00 p.m. Adjourn