



NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Fall 2021 Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 15, 2021 Via Zoom Video Conference

Agenda

**9:50 a.m. –
10:00 a.m.** **Welcome and Sign On to Video Conference**

Dial-in:

Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/8201642392>

Video ID - 8201642392

Phone - 646-558-8656 or 669-900-6833

Phone ID - 8201642392

No password required

**10:00 a.m. –
10:45 a.m.** **Postsecondary Education for Incarcerated Individuals in New England: Guidance for State Policymakers**

The U.S. leads the world in the number of incarcerated persons per capita, and there are currently more than 200,000 individuals incarcerated in New England alone. In today's global economy, these numbers represent huge wastes in human capital, especially when considered alongside the inequitable nature of the American criminal justice system, as witnessed by the disproportionate racial and ethnic composition, types of crimes, and length of prison sentences represented within this population. Regardless of the pathway to prison, most incarcerated people eventually return to the communities from which they came. Thus, one of the important questions our society must ask is: How do we want the formerly incarcerated to be when they re-enter our communities? Prison-based education programs are one of the best investments state governments can make; they are cost-effective, reduce recidivism, improve employment prospects, increase civic engagement, improve community safety, and can disrupt generational poverty. However, only 42% of prisoners have access to educational programming during their incarceration, even though 79% demonstrate interest in such programs. A panel of experts will present the latest findings on the effects of postsecondary educational opportunities for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, as well as legislative strategies for expanding these program offerings in New England.

Moderator:

Representative Rebecca Millett, Maine | Co-chair, Legislative Advisory Committee

Speakers:

Dr. Lee Perlman | Co-director, MIT The Educational Justice Institute; Co-Founder, Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium

Carole Cafferty | Co-director, MIT The Educational Justice Institute

Jule Hall | Senior Program Manager of Diversity, Amazon; Graduate, Bard Prison Initiative; Featured, Ken Burns' *College Behind Bars*

Sheridan Miller | State Policy Engagement Coordinator, NEBHE

10:45 a.m. – Q&A

11:00 a.m. Committee members will have the opportunity to ask the panelists questions.

Moderator:

Representative Rebecca Millett

11:00 a.m. – State Updates: Priorities for Your Legislative Sessions

11:20 a.m.

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:

Senator David Watters | Co-chair, Legislative Advisory Committee

11:20 a.m. Adjourn