



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

October 9, 2012

RECEIVED

RICHARD L. PATTENAUDE, Chair (2013)
University of Maine System

JEAN A. WYLD, Vice Chair (2015)
Springfield College

DAVID F. FINNEY (2013)
Champlain College

WILFREDO NIEVES (2013)
Capital Community College

LINDA S. WELLS (2013)
Boston University

ANDREW B. EVANS (2014)
Wellesley College

DAVID S. GRAVES (2014)
Laureate Hospitality, Art & Design

R. BRUCE HITCHNER (2014)
Tufts University

MARY ELLEN JUKOSKI (2014)
Mitchell College

DAVID L. LEVINSON (2014)
Norwalk Community College

BRUCE L. MALLORY (2014)
University of New Hampshire

PATRICIA MAGUIRE MESERVEY (2014)
Salem State University

CHRISTOPHER J. SULLIVAN (2014)
Concord, NH

DAVID E.A. CARSON (2015)
Hartford, CT

THOMAS L.G. DWYER (2015)
Johnson & Wales University

JOHN F. GABRANSKI (2015)
Haydenville, MA

WILLIAM F. KENNEDY (2015)
Boston, MA

JON S. OXMAN (2015)
Auburn, ME

JACQUELINE D. PETERSON (2015)
College of the Holy Cross

REV. BRIAN J. SHANLEY, O.P. (2015)
Providence College

Director of the Commission
BARBARA E. BRITTINGHAM
bbrittingham@neasc.org

Deputy Director of the Commission
PATRICIA M. O'BRIEN, SND
pobrien@neasc.org

Associate Director of the Commission
CAROL L. ANDERSON
canderson@neasc.org

Associate Director of the Commission
ROBERT C. FROH
rfroh@neasc.org

Associate Director of the Commission
PAULA A. HARBECKE
pharbecke@neasc.org

Ms. Barbara E. Murphy
President
Johnson State College
337 College Hill
Johnson, VT 05656-9898

OCT 12 2012

Office of the President
Johnson State College

Dear President Murphy:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on September 21, 2012 the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Johnson State College and took the following action:

that the report submitted by Johnson State College be accepted;

that the institution be reminded that its approval for distance education is limited to the Bachelor of Arts programs in Professional Studies, Business Management, Liberal Arts, and Psychology and that plans to offer additional programs through distance education need to be submitted to the Commission for approval prior to implementation;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2015 be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The report submitted by Johnson State College was accepted because it was generally responsive to the concerns raised by the Commission in its letter of November 2, 2010.

The Commission commends Johnson State College (JSC) for an extremely well-written and candid report documenting the institution's continuing development of its External Degree Program (EDP). We are pleased to learn the program, that enrolled 585 students in Fall 2011, has grown to be the largest – and most affordable – bachelor's degree completion program in the State of Vermont. The work done by JSC's Academic Review Board, Education/EDP Council, and Liberal Arts Program Committee, along with the commitment of the president, demonstrate that the EDP program is integral to the College's programming. Inclusion of initiatives related to the EDP in the College's strategic plan is noteworthy, as is the program review conducted by Eduventures that identified a number of areas for improvement the College is presently addressing. While we agree with the College that much remains to be

done, the financial resources that have been allocated to add a professional development program for EDP faculty and to fund the coordinator of online learning and services position provides evidence of JSC's commitment to the program's future potential to serve students throughout the State of Vermont.

We remind you that the College's approval for distance education is limited to the programs listed above. We take note that JSC has limited its EDP program to five majors to "concentrate its efforts on quality of programming and delivery" but that, in response to student demand, it is now considering the addition of a sixth program in Wellness and Alternative Medicine. If students in this – or any other new EDP program – are able to earn 50% or more of the credits for their degree online, plans to offer such programs will need to be reviewed by the Commission, consistent with our Policy on Substantive Change.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2015 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Johnson State College and hopes that its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education in New England.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Gary W. Moore. The institution is free to release information about the report and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with Commission policy.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Barbara Brittingham, Director of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Pattenaude

RLP/jm

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Gary W. Moore