



## **Student Success Committee**

### **CCSNH BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Meeting of December 19, 2019**

**Attending:** Trustee Steve Rothenberg (Chair), Trustee John Calhoun, Trustee Stephen Freeborn, Trustee Sharon Harris, Trustee Kenneth Stanley, RVCC President Alfred Williams, NCC President Lucille Jordan, CCSNH Chancellor Ross Gittell, CCSNH Director of DOE and College Access Programs Beth Doiron

**Regrets:** Trustee Jeff Cozzens, Christopher Way (BEA), Commissioner Frank Edelblut, CCSNH Executive Director of Government Affairs and Communications Shannon Reid

**Others Attending:** Trustee Robert Baines, CCSNH COO Charles Ansell, CCSNH Chief Advancement Officer Tim Allison

Committee Chair Rothenberg called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Chancellor's Office Conference Room, NHTI, Concord, NH.

#### Approval of September 19, 2019 Minutes

**VOTE:** The Committee, on motion of Mr. Calhoun and seconded by Mr. Freeborn, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting as written.

#### Committee Work Plan

Mr. Rothenberg provided an overview of the function and structure of the committee. Over the past two years, the committee built a list of items to cover at meetings and for which a member of the senior leadership team is charged with providing information. The topic of adult learners will be covered at the meeting today.

#### Adult Learners

Chancellor Gittell led a discussion on the CCSNH adult learner initiative. Complete College America (CCA) defines adult learner as a person whose main identity is not a college student. While CCSNH and the committee have been focusing on recruitment of high school graduates, a population of about 15,000 people in the state, and on increasing the pipeline of Running Start students to CCSNH, there is also a significant opportunity in recruiting the adult learner population of about 300,000 people that has either a high school as terminal degree or some college.

The Finish Line program provides incentive to the adult learner college population to finish their degrees in areas of high-skilled worker demand where there is a large gap. The committee discussed the most common reasons for leaving college before finishing, including difficulties balancing work and school and connecting to the purpose. Ms. Doiron discussed the FIVE Guys restaurant chain, which has started an apprenticeship program for workers and restaurant management to provide opportunity for upward mobility in the restaurant/ hospitality industry.



At Nashua CC, a position was created to focus on the adult population by holding events for adult learners, creating structured schedules and a Friday-Saturday program that accommodate part-time students, and by offering certificates that can be completed in two years and credit for prior work experience. RVCC President Williams noted that combining the college's advising and career centers more efficiently provides the resources and information that adult learners are looking for when they first approach the college about returning to college. Presidents Jordan and Williams noted that increased recruitment and advising staff are needed to boost the pipeline of adult learners to the community colleges.

Mr. Ansell discussed Degrees When Due, which helps the colleges re-engage students who have completed some college at CCSNH and possibly at another institution and map out custom paths to degree obtainment for them. Students who get prior learning assessment end up taking more credits than students who do not get prior learning assessment.

Chancellor Gittell provided an overview of Skillabi, a program with an employer focus that complements curriculum mapping by creating a common language around skills that employers, colleges, students and workers can understand.

Discussion followed regarding the different recruitment strategies needed for adult learners and the institutions across the country who are recruiting adult learners effectively. Mr. Stanley discussed the importance of pathways and the need for adult learners to be able to communicate easily cross-college, and he described the experience of adult learners who return to school in a setting that has changed dramatically since they were last taking classes.

The committee discussed the initiative in terms of how it meets the board's financial sustainability objective. More information is needed regarding returns and graduate outputs of investing in this initiative.

The adult learner discussion will be continued at the board retreat next month.

#### Other Business

Workforce training will be a future topic that the committee covers at a future meeting, and President Jordan and Mr. Ansell will prepare and lead the discussion.

Ms. Doiron provided an update on efforts to increase the pipeline of Running Start students to CCSNH. The Running Start coordinators are working on developing maps that show how Running Start courses fit into CCSNH programs. The committee discussed the importance of establishing pathways for the program. Mr. Freeborn noted that all faculty should receive the materials that Ms. Doiron is preparing.

New legislation was introduced that requires all high school freshmen to take a career assessment, and Ms. Doiron suggested that the state use the Career Coach tool for this purpose. The Department of Education is putting out an RFP for career assessment and CCSNH may be able to apply. Mr. Freeborn suggests that more colleges begin using Ethnography of Work and Road Trip Nation.



All trustees have been invited to attend winter convening on January 10 at NHTI to learn more about the system's initiative on no and low-cost (NoLo) educational course materials, including Open Educational Resources (OER).

No further business was stated. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Eckner  
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees