NECHE
New England Commission of Higher Education

October 16, 2026

Dr. Patrick Tompkins
President
NHTI – Concord's Community College
31 College Drive
Concord, NH 03301-7412

Dear President Tompkins:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on September 24, 2026, the New England Commission of Higher Education took the following action with respect to NHTI – Concord's Community College:

that NHTI – Concord's Community College be continued in accreditation.

The Commission will monitor NHTI – Concord's Community College's future progress through the following reports and other requests:

that the institution be asked to submit a progress report by August 15, 2028 for consideration in Fall 2028 that gives emphasis to the institution's success in:

1. implementing a systematic approach to the assessment of student learning across its academic programs and general education, with evidence of using the results for improvement;

that the institution submit an interim report by January 15, 2031 for consideration in Spring 2031;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, the Spring 2031 interim report give emphasis to the institution's success in:

1. developing an integrated strategic plan to ensure resources align with institutional priorities;

2. assessing the effects of recent faculty and staff reductions on instructional quality and student learning;

that the next comprehensive evaluation be scheduled for Spring 2036.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its actions and monitoring.

NHTI – Concord's Community College (NHTI) is continued in accreditation because the Commission finds the institution to be in compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation*.

The Commission commends NHTI – Concord's Community College for its:

- strong commitment to its recently adopted mission, "NHTI cultivates potential in every learner." The broadly consultative process used to develop the mission reinforced the shared sense of purpose and commitment of the faculty, staff, administrators, and Trustees to student success.

- increased organizational stability. Following a period of transition, greater continuity in leadership has strengthened confidence in the College's efforts to address enrollment pressures and advance institutional priorities.

- implementation of the Curriculum Portfolio Review process to inform academic program decisions. The review process, which draws on program-level enrollment, completion, and post-graduation data, as well as alignment with workforce and community needs, demonstrates NHTI's capacity to use evidence in its development and improvement of the College's academic programs.

- extensive student-support infrastructure. Professional advising, the services provided by NHTI's Academic Center for Excellence and Learning Commons Library Services, along with emergency grants and food assistance, provide academic and practical support designed to help students persist and complete their studies.

In the Fall 2028 progress report, the Commission asks the institution for an update on the following area identified for development:

1. **Implementing a systematic approach to the assessment of student learning across its academic programs and general education, with evidence of using the results for improvement (*Educational Effectiveness and the Success of All Students,* Statement of the Standard; 4.2, 4.3, 4.4).** Viewed as a "more direct route to program assessment than filtering assessment through a committee," the College has assigned the Associate Vice President of Academic to work with department chairs and program coordinators to improve assessment processes in programs without specialized accreditation and in general education. An Outcomes Assessment Planning worksheet, created to design assessment plans, was approved in June 2026 with implementation scheduled to begin in Fall 2026. Following through on its plans will demonstrate that "[t]he institution regularly and systematically collects and analyzes data aligned with its mission and uses the findings to identify and address areas for improvement" (4.3).

Commission policy requires an interim report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. The purpose of the Spring 2031 interim report is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution's current status in keeping with the Policy on the Periodic Review of Accredited Institutions. In the Spring 2031 interim report, the Commission asks the institution for an update on the following areas identified for development:

1. **Developing an integrated strategic plan to ensure resources align with institutional priorities (1.14).** The College's broad participation in planning provides a foundation for a coordinated framework linking institutional goals, measures of progress, and resource decisions. At the time of the evaluation, NHTI was in the process of refining the priorities of its new strategic plan, while its supporting plans – a "strategic enrollment plan … academic plan … facilities plan, and finance and budgeting plan" – had yet to be developed. As noted by the visiting team, alignment of these plans "with the projected strategic plan priorities, including their goals, timelines, metrics, and resource allocations," would provide evidence that NHTI "aligns institutional resources with strategic priorities" (1.14).

2. **Assessing the effects of faculty and staff reductions on instructional quality and student learning (2.18, 3.3, 3.7).** Over the past several years, NHTI's enrollment declined from 4,648 students in Fall 2019 to 3,574 in Fall 2025, a decrease of approximately 23%. Correspondingly, the number of full-time faculty declined from 89 in 2020 to around 64 in 2024, and full-time staff likewise fell from over 100 to 75, resulting in increased responsibilities for the remaining

faculty and staff. In response to concerns expressed by faculty and staff, the Commission seeks assurance, in the Spring 2031 interim report, that the College has sufficient faculty and staff to sustain the quality of its academic programs and student services.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Spring 2036 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years.

You will note that the Commission has specified no length or term of accreditation. Accreditation is a continuing relationship that is reconsidered when necessary. Thus, while the Commission has indicated the timing of the next comprehensive evaluation, the schedule should not be unduly emphasized because it is subject to change.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the self-study prepared by NHTI – Concord's Community College and for the report submitted by the visiting team. The Commission also welcomed the opportunity to meet with you, Rebecca Dean, VP of Student Success, Hector Iweka, VP of Academic & Workforce Education, and Marsha Bourdon, Business Affairs Officer, during its deliberations.

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 and the head of the system of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Donnalee Lozeau, Chair of the CCSNH Board of Trustees, and Chuck Lloyd, Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the attached policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

The Commission hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Christine Siegel

Christine Siegel
Commission Chair

CS/mrc

cc: Donnalee Lozeau, Chair, CCSNH Board of Trustees
Chuck Lloyd, Chancellor, CCSNH

Attachments: Guidelines for Preparing Progress Reports
Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions