

## Community College System of NH – briefing on Dec. 17, 2018 to NH legislators

*(notes below were taken by LWVNH member Liz Tentarelli, for purposes of our state League study of public education. Any errors are those of the note-taker, with apologies. Thank you to CCSNH for allowing League to observe.)*

Chancellor Ross Gittell PhD was the primary presenter. He explained that the Community College System shares the NH goal of “65 by 25” meaning 65% of New Hampshire residents will have some kind of higher education degree or certification by 2025.

Meeting the needs of NH’s workforce is the impetus for many of the CCSNH decisions. The priorities for the future are as follow:

- grow programs in high opportunity career areas
- maintain personnel
- increase efforts in NH high schools to send students to CCSNH
- increase participation in Running Start (also called dual enrollment, in which high school students can take certain courses for college credit which also count as credit toward high school graduation)
- provide needed remediation in English and math through learning support (increased use of the co-requisite model of remediation, in which support is given to students who need it while they take the required college courses, rather than have them spend money on non-credit bearing prerequisite remedial classes) (note: their studies show that twice as many students actually finish the community college programs in which they enrolled if they use this co-requisite remediation model rather than the older model.)
- freeze tuition (which is currently the second highest in the country)
- increase use of free course materials to 30% of courses by using Open Educational Resources (to reduce student expenses of books/materials)

The CCSNH has seven colleges, some with satellite campuses. Not all courses are offered at all campuses; in some parts of the state, industry is working with the colleges to provide instruction or support for courses that are needed to fill workforce openings in the area.

Creative ways of allowing more students to access particular programs was discussed. Different ways employed at different campuses, including use of technology and rotation of instructors.

It was stressed that for those students who earn an associates degree at a community college, transfer of credits to any of the NH colleges/universities is much easier than in the past. A cost effective way for students to get half their bachelor’s degree for less.

The budget request for 2019-2020 state budget includes about \$11 million increase. Most of that would go to salary and benefits for faculty so they don’t fall further behind the median for New England college instructors. Also includes increasing “Finish Line” scholarships for students who are close to completion in high-need career areas and also for Running Start courses.

The capital budget request focuses on needed maintenance, increasing campus security, master plan (*not sure if that is development or implementation*), technology (\$3.2 million), labs and facilities, and make better use of the NHTI Farnum facility.

Tuition: CCSNH is holding the line in the last 7 years as opposed to large increases at other (4-yr) colleges, but is still second only to VT in cost for students at New England community colleges. (full-time tuition is \$6,450 per yr).

CCSNH serves NH: 93% of students are NH residents. Within one year of graduation, over 75% are employed in NH (many of the remainder have transferred to 4-year colleges).

Each college president spoke about the exciting work happening at their institutions. Nursing is particularly strong at all colleges (notes that the state right now needs another 15,000 RNs). Medical Technology certificate programs fill another big need. Auto technology is another field that relies on CCSNH grads.

Learn more about the CCSNH at their website: <https://www.ccsnh.edu/about-ccsnh>