

October 22, 2018

Dr. James P. Lombella  
President  
Asnuntuck Community College  
170 Elm Street  
Enfield, CT 06082-3811

Dear President Lombella:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on September 21, 2018 the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Asnuntuck Community College regarding its Second Chance Pell locations as well as the report of the evaluator and took the following action:

that the report regarding the College's Second Chance Pell program be accepted and inclusion of the instructional locations at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution in Suffield, Connecticut and the Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers, Connecticut within the institution's accreditation be confirmed;

that the interim (fifth-year) report scheduled for Fall 2020 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all interim reports, as well as the matters specified in our letter of April 5, 2016, the Fall 2020 report provide an update on the Second Chance Pell program;

that the Commission notes the proposal by the President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system regarding a possible reconfiguration of community colleges by 2023 and informs Asnuntuck Community College that the advancement of those plans may result in changes to the scheduled monitoring of the College.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The Commission accepted the report submitted by Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) and confirmed inclusion of the instructional locations at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution (MCI) in Suffield, Connecticut, and the Osborn Correctional Institution (OCI) in Somers, Connecticut within the institution's accreditation because the report provided evidence that the College is implementing the Second Chance Pell program in a manner consistent with Commission standards and policies.

DAVID QUIGLEY, Chair (2021)  
Boston College

GEORGE W. TETLER, Vice Chair (2019)  
Worcester, MA

HARRY E. DUMAY (2019)  
College of Our Lady of the Elms

JEFFREY R. GODLEY (2019)  
Gralon, CT

COLEEN C. PANTALONE (2019)  
Northeastern University

MARIKO SILVER (2019)  
Bennington College

KASSANDRA S. ARDINGER (2020)  
Trustee Member, Concord, NH

RUSSELL CAREY (2020)  
Brown University

FRANCESCO C. CESAREO (2020)  
Assumption College

F. JAVIER CEVALLOS (2020)  
Framingham State University

RICK DANIELS (2020)  
Cohasset, MA

DONALD D. DEHAYES (2020)  
University of Rhode Island

PAM Y. EDDINGER (2020)  
Bunker Hill Community College

THOMAS S. EDWARDS (2020)  
Thomas College

KIMBERLY M. GOFF-CREWS (2020)  
Yale University

MARTIN J. HOWARD (2020)  
Boston University

SUSAN D. HUARD (2020)  
Manchester Community College (NH)

JEFFREY S. SOLOMON (2020)  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

ELEANOR BAKER (2021)  
Falmouth, ME

KATHERINE BERGERON (2021)  
Connecticut College

PETER L. EBB (2021)  
Trustee Member, Boston, MA

GREGORY W. FOWLER (2021)  
Southern New Hampshire University

DENNIS M. HANNO (2021)  
Wheaton College

LILY S. HSU (2021)  
Johnson & Wales University

ELLEN L. KENNEDY (2021)  
Berkshire Community College

ABDALLAH A. SFEIR (2021)  
Lebanese American University

NEIL D. STEINBERG (2021)  
Providence, RI

JOHN M. SWEENEY (2021)  
Providence College

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

Sr. Vice President of the Commission  
PATRICIA M. O'BRIEN, SND  
pobrien@neasc.org

Vice President of the Commission  
CAROL L. ANDERSON  
canderson@neasc.org

Vice President of the Commission  
LAURA M. GAMBINO  
lgambino@neasc.org

Vice President of the Commission  
PAULA A. HARBECKE  
pharbecke@neasc.org

The Commission is pleased to learn of the initial success of Asnuntuck Community College's Second Chance Pell program offered at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution and the Osborn Correctional Institution. We concur with the evaluator that the program is a "clear fit with the college's mission and purposes." The Commission notes that, as part of the program, a small cohort of inmates take classes at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center on ACC's campus. We commend the College for this innovative approach, its communication to the Asnuntuck community about the program, and the steps it took to ensure the comfort and safety of all its students. We are further pleased to note the voluntary assignment of full-time faculty and staff to the program and the hiring of a retired Department of Corrections worker to serve as liaison for the program. We appreciate ACC's success in providing effective academic and student support resources and services (adapted as necessary to the MCI and OCI populations) to students in the program. We share the judgment of the evaluator that ACC is offering a "high quality academic experience" and are gratified to learn that, at the time of the visit, course completion rates in the Second Chance Pell program were comparable to all ACC students and that 17 students in the program had qualified for inclusion in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. The Commission appreciates that, should the U.S. Department of Education discontinue funding for the Second Chance Pell program, ACC is already working with the Department of Corrections to find alternate funding to provide classes to eligible students and will welcome inmates to continue their studies on campus upon their release.

Commission policy requires an interim (fifth-year) report of all institutions on a decennial evaluation cycle. Its purpose is to provide the Commission an opportunity to appraise the institution's current status in keeping with the Policy on Periodic Review. In addition to the information provided in all interim reports and the matters specified in our letter of April 5, 2016, we look forward, in Fall 2020, to receiving an update about the College's Second Chance Pell program.

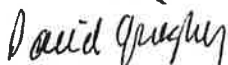
The Commission notes the proposal by the President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system regarding a possible reconfiguration of the community colleges by 2023. Such a re-organization could result in a change in the schedule of monitoring of Asnuntuck Community College.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the reports prepared by Asnuntuck Community College and the evaluator and hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation in 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 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 Mr. Matt Fleury and Mr. Mark Ojakian. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

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

Sincerely,

  
David Quigley

DQ/sjp

cc: Mr. Matt Fleury  
Mr. Mark Ojakian  
Mr. Todd Slover