



January 22, 2019

Dr. Carlee Rader Drummer
President
Quinebaug Valley Community College
742 Upper Maple Street
Danielson, CT 06239

Dear President Drummer:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on November 15, 2018, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Quinebaug Valley Community College and took the following action:

that the report submitted by Quinebaug Valley Community College be accepted;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2021 be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all comprehensive evaluations, as well as the matters specified in our letter of October 22, 2018, the institution give emphasis, in the Fall 2021 self-study, to its continued success in assessing student learning and achieving its goals to improve retention and graduation rates;

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 Quinebaug Valley 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 actions.

The report submitted by Quinebaug Valley Community College was accepted because it was generally responsive to the concerns raised by the Commission in its letters of November 14, 2016 and July 18, 2017.

The Commission appreciates the progress report submitted by Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) and takes favorable note of the College's efforts to implement the Board of Regents Transfer and Articulation Program (TAP), assess student learning, and improve its retention and graduation rates. We understand that QVCC has implemented 17 of the

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26 Transfer Articulation Pathways developed by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) System. We are pleased to note that QVCC has collected assessment data from multiple semesters that will be shared with faculty to “improve TAP assessment” as well as with the CSCU TAP Implementation Committee and Learning Assessment Council. The Commission also commends the College on its multiple initiatives to improve retention and graduation rates by addressing student readiness for college, including embedded support in math and English courses, the First-Year Experience course, and its College Career Pathway (CCP) course offerings at the local high schools. We further appreciate that QVCC is working to reduce other barriers to student success: there were 40 classes with a “#NoLo” (No Cost/Low Cost) textbook designation in the Fall 2018 semester, and the College addresses food insecurity issues through a Meal Ticket Program and Help Yourself Boxes. In addition, the Student Success Center offers a LEAP (Learn, Enroll, Assess, Proceed) workshop for students and a New Student Orientation each fall. Advising Services uses email, text messages, telephone calls, and post card mailings to connect with students for advising and registration services. The Commission is gratified to learn that QVCC’s efforts have contributed to a combined retention and graduation rate of 72 percent.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2021 is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years. The College is asked, in the Fall 2021 self-study, to give emphasis to its continued success in assessing student learning and achieving its goals to improve retention and graduation rates. The Commission recognizes that these matters do not lend themselves to rapid resolution and will require the College’s sustained attention over time; hence, we ask that further information be provided in the self-study.

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 Quinebaug Valley Community College.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Quinebaug Valley Community 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 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

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Matt Fleury
Mr. Mark Ojakian