Filler Page.
So document can be viewed side by side as would be seen in the booklet.
Stories and Voices 2020

Access to Higher Education

Agenda

⇒ Welcome and Introductions.
⇒ Purpose and Guidelines.
⇒ What is your experience with access to higher education?
⇒ What do we mean by higher education?
⇒ Barriers to accessing higher education.
⇒ Contemplating solutions.
⇒ Looking Forward.

The third annual interactive dialogue presented by the Department of Communication and the Civil Discourse Lab.

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Written by Chris Gagliolo & Jake Garner.
Advised by Professor Renee Heath.
With help from the class - CMN 662: Public Dialogue and Deliberation.
"It was important to me to go to college because my parents immigrated here from Brazil and worked hard to give me opportunities they never had" – Caroline, UNH Student

Facilitator note: Goal is to have participants introduce themselves and explain how they are related to the issue of access and build rapport with one another.

Q: What is your experience with access to Higher Education?

Q: How are you connected to the issue? Why is this topic important to you?
**Facilitator note:** Goal is to collect participants' perspectives on how they view higher education and its purpose.

**Q:** What do we mean by Higher Education?

Reflect on these words. How do they shape our understanding of higher ed.?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Micro-credentialing</th>
<th>Legacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade School</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running Start Programs</td>
<td>Associate’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income Student</td>
<td>First Generation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Non-traditional student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Technical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Athlete</td>
<td>SAT/ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Loans</td>
<td>Tuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work study</td>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pell Grants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**American Views of Higher Education Platforms**

- 83% Favorable view of vocational/trade schools
- 69% Favorable view of four-year colleges/institutions
- 34% Favorable view of ‘for-profit’ colleges
- 55% Favorable view of higher education system overall

% saying the main purpose of college should be...

- Personal growth
- Specific skills

Facilitator note: Goal is to collect participants' perspectives on how they view higher education and its purpose.

**Q:** What is the role of higher education? Why do people go?
Q: What are the barriers to accessing higher education throughout New Hampshire?

⇒ NH has a 227:1 student to guidance counselor ratio
⇒ 57% of students want more information on loans and credit
⇒ 3,335 NH students are homeless
⇒ Only 59% of rural students go to college, compared to 67% in suburban areas
⇒ 85% of LGBT+ students experience harassment at college

Facilitator note: Goal is to focus specifically on barriers of accessing higher education in the state of New Hampshire.

“In New Hampshire, state funding only covers about one-tenth of the budget for the University System of New Hampshire”

How students spend an average $1,991 per month in non-tuition expenses:

- Rent and Utilities: $895
- Food: $530
- Personal Expenses: $353
- Books and Supplies: $120
- Transportation: $93

Prevalence of Disabilities among NH Adults (ages 18 and older):

1 in 5 NH adults has a disability

Including these disability types:
- Mobility disability
- Cognitive disability
- Hearing disability
- Vision disability

In other words, disability affects more than 237,000 NH residents
Q: What are the barriers specific to UNH?

"I feel like I'm suffering more than I feel like I'm getting stuff done, so I should probably take a leave of absence" - Marissa, UNH student dealing with mental health

According to UNH Campus Climate Survey:

- Trans-spectrum respondents feel less comfortable than cis gendered respondents
- Respondents of Color and Multiracial feel less comfortable than White respondents
- Bi-sexual and Queer respondents reported feeling less comfortable than straight respondents
- Respondents with a disability reported feeling less comfortable than those without
- Non-U.S. citizens felt less comfortable than U.S citizens

Facilitator note: Using UNH as a case study to address specific barriers people have come across while trying to access universities.

Q: What barriers have you/people you know encountered in your experience with access to UNH?
Q: Keeping in mind the barriers that are important to you, how is UNH addressing them?

Services Across UNH

⇒ Commuter Student Amenities  
  o Lounge with kitchenette  
  o Commuter lockers  
⇒ Connect Program  
  o Helps first generation and multicultural student  
⇒ UNH Marriage and Family Therapy Center  
⇒ Child Study and Development Center  
  o On campus daycare  
⇒ Wildcats Working Parent’s Network  
⇒ UNH ADVANCE  
  o Aims to improve UNH faculty leadership development with goal of increasing the number of women faculty primarily but not solely in STEM disciplines

Facilitator note: The goal is to have participants generate ideas of how UNH is addressing their specific barrier and focus on what is working.

Q: How are these resources supporting access to UNH? What additional resources that you know of?
Q: How should UNH be addressing barriers to access?

“Be considerate to international students... They [UNH Administration] have a speech they have a talk it’s really good... but the follow up isn’t really there” – UNH International Student

“I’ve had professors re-arrange their syllabus just to work with me in order for me to be successful” – Tabitha, a fulltime working mother and UNH student

Ideas

⇒ Implement FAFSA and other information sessions for those not connected to high schools
⇒ Flexibility arounds assignments
⇒ Better commuter parking options
⇒ Better link community college curriculum with UNH
⇒ More defined guidelines regarding credit transfers
⇒ More flexibility in decision making structure around credits and graduation

What resources would it take? What are the trade-offs?

Q: What do we need from administration, faculty, services, infrastructure?

Facilitator note: Goal is to have participants generate ideas and suggestions of how UNH can better address these barriers.
Q: Looking beyond UNH how are we currently addressing barriers specific to New Hampshire?

NH State Bills

SB 276 (2019)
Signed by Governor – Expands career and technical education (CTE), in particular by permitting students in grade 10 to enroll in CTE courses designated by the community colleges system of New Hampshire. This bill also expands CTE reporting requirements.

HB 570 (2019)
Signed by Governor - Establishes a commission to study career pathways from full-time service year programs to post-secondary education and employment opportunities.

HB 730 (2019)
Signed by Governor – Reestablishes the CART (computer aided, real-time translation of spoken English) Provided and Sign Language interpreter net tuition repayment fund.

New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation

Facilitator note: Have participants generate what is known of how the state of New Hampshire is addressing barriers.

Q: How are these resources supporting access to NH? What additional resources do you know of?

TRIO

Designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds including:

- first generation
- High financial needs
- Students with disability
- Homeless students

These students can receive:

- Assistance filing FAFSA
- Financial aid information
- Academic subject area tutoring
- Career and major exploration

RUNNING START

Earn College Credit in High School!

Gain experience with college level coursework
Save money - tuition cost is only $150
Transfer credits to many colleges and universities

Q:
Facilitator note: This page should continue with deliberation of what the state could do to make higher education more accessible.

**Q:** How should New Hampshire address barriers to higher education?

Beginning in the Fall of 2020, the New Hampshire Career Academy is an innovative education program that provides students with a pathway leading to a high school diploma, an associate degree, an industry credential, and a job interview with a New Hampshire employer. This happens over a two-year period at no tuition cost to students or their families.

“Individuals attending schools with strong counseling programs reported a higher level of academic achievement; a greater sense of happiness, safety and security at their institution”\(^35\)

**What resources would it take? What are the trade-offs?**

“The University System strives to assure the availability of appropriate higher educational opportunities to all New Hampshire people; seeks to enroll a diverse student population to enhance educational experiences; and provides programs and activities based on a commitment to excellence.”

Programs include:
- Marine Technology
- Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- Respiratory Health
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Radiologic Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Medical Assistant
- Engineer Technology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Robotics
- Cyber Security
- Biotechnology

Colleges include:
- River Valley Community College
- Lakes Region Community College
- New Hampshire Technical School
- Manchester Community College
- Great Bay Community College

**Q:** What do we need from high-schools, community colleges, trade school, legislators?
Facilitator note: The purpose of these pages is to have participants reflect on the discussions and see how their values align with the two presidential candidates’ perspectives of access to higher education.

**Democrat**

“Ensure that no child’s future is determined by their zip code, parents’ income, race, or disability.”

“Double the number of psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals in our schools so our kids get the mental health care they need.”

“As President, Biden will build an education system that starts investing in our children at birth and helps every student get some education beyond a high school diploma, whether a certification, associate degree, or bachelor’s degree.”

“Free community college”

“Mr. Biden, the former vice president, supports making public colleges and universities tuition-free for students from families with incomes up to $125,000,”

“Borrowers should not have to make payments towards their loans until they are earning at least $30,000”

“Because all of society benefits from a well-educated population, the government has a role in providing quality schools—and helping parents and students pay for them... and using public funds to make college more affordable.”

-Voter’s Guide to Education

Apple News Spotlight
“The private sector is a more reliable steward of education dollars than local governments. And parents should be allowed to make their own choices about schooling their children. That means cutting funds to public institutions while giving private alternatives more funding and flexibility.” - Voter’s Guide to Education Apple News Spotlight

Q: How do your values and interests align with the candidates?

Donald Trump

Proposed that student loan forgiveness be made available to all borrowers with undergraduate and graduate student loans who participate in a single income-driven repayment plan.

“Borrowers would pay 12.5% of their discretionary income and would receive student loan forgiveness after 15 years for their federal undergraduate loans and 25 years for federal graduate loans financial aid programs”

“Low-income students will now have access to these funds over summer and winter breaks, so they can earn their degrees faster with fewer loans.”

“The Trump Administration implemented the year-round distribution of Pell grants, instead of limiting these grants to the spring and fall semesters.”

“By offering options that look to the private sector for risk mitigation, we can both protect taxpayers and help more Americans use education as a ladder to achieve the American dream.”

“More than half of current students are classified as “nontraditional,” yet many institutions of higher education have not adequately addressed their unique needs. Nontraditional students interested in accelerated paths to careers should have access to innovative providers who can more effectively meet their needs.”

“Republican

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⇒ Gear Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) 55
  o Prepares low income students to succeed in higher education
  o Provides 6-7 year grants to each state that allows them to visit high-poverty schools

Resources Addressing Disability

⇒ Parent Information Center 56
  o Provides services and support to students of all ages with disabilities
  o 54 Old Suncook Rd, Concord NH, (630-224-7005)
  o Information and resources available online

⇒ Pathways of the River Valley 57
  o Non-profit agency serving people with disabilities in their communities
  o 654 Main Street, Claremont NH 03743 (Main office, more local offices)
  o Provides services for people with disabilities, website has information on resources available in New Hampshire

Alternative Ways to Earn College Credit

⇒ CLEP and DSST Tests 58
  o 33+ exams covering intro level college courses accepted at 2,900 US universities as pass/fail college credit
  o Each college determines what CLEP/DSST exams they accept and what scores they require
  o Test costs $87 plus testing center fee

⇒ Modern States 59
  o Non-profit dedicated to making high quality education available to all students
  o Provides online courses prepping students for CLEP exams