

Granite State College

Keene
STATE COLLEGE

Plymouth State
UNIVERSITY



University of
New Hampshire

University System
of New Hampshire

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The University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees Affirms Support of Plans for Residential Campuses to Reopen for the Fall

CONCORD, NH (August 4, 2020) - Tonight, at a specially called meeting, the [University System of New Hampshire \(USNH\)](#) Board of Trustees voted 18 to 1 to support the Presidents' decisions to open their institutions to on-campus and in-person educational programming for the coming fall semester, and will continue to monitor the evolving conditions and public health guidance. Robust and aggressive plans are in place to mitigate the risks to our communities and welcome students and employees back at the [University of New Hampshire](#), [Plymouth State University](#) and [Keene State College](#).

"It's been an extraordinary and thorough effort to prepare for the fall. The Board deeply appreciates the fine work of our Presidents and their teams, and the support and guidance of the Governor and his team. We know this will be a journey, and in many ways, we're just getting started. This vote today is an important milestone in our journey to continuously improve our plans and capabilities, track and adapt developments on and off campus, and, especially, monitor the course of the virus and respond rapidly to conditions as they evolve," said Joe Morone, Chair, USNH Board of Trustees.

The University System of New Hampshire leadership teams, task forces, students, employees, surrounding communities, law enforcement, and state leaders have worked to build COVID-19 processes, practices, and evaluation tools to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 with the goal of returning our campus communities for the fall 2020 semester. Throughout the last several weeks, the USNH Board of Trustees has made clear that the decision to open residential campuses must not be driven by financial considerations. All plans had to be based on a careful balancing of our duty to fulfill our public education mission with our responsibility to preserve public health. Campus plans have been informed by state and national experts and guidance from among others, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), State Epidemiology, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS), and higher education professional organizations.

“Our primary objectives are to return to our core mission of serving the post-secondary educational and economic needs of the State of New Hampshire,” said Todd Leach, Chancellor, University System of New Hampshire. “It will fall on all of us to mitigate risks, and we must all also be open to changing course if necessary. Whether we remain on campus or migrate to remote delivery at some point, needs to be based on mission and safety considerations, not a financial decision.”

All residential campuses are planning to deliver blended (online and face-to-face) program delivery and to be ready to move to fully remote learning if conditions warrant that level of action. Granite State College will continue online learning through December, 2020.

The University System of New Hampshire (USNH) enrolls 32,000 students and consists of four public institutions: Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of New Hampshire. USNH strives to ensure the availability of appropriate and accessible higher educational opportunities throughout New Hampshire and addresses critical state workforce needs. A 29-member Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the University System.

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