

AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance/Postsecondary Approvals

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant a Certificate of Approval and Degree Granting Authority commencing August 15, 2017, to Southern New Hampshire University, to offer credit-bearing courses and degrees related to the following program or degrees: Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.)?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education grants a Certificate of Approval and Degree-Granting Authority commencing August 15, 2017, to Southern New Hampshire University, to offer credit-bearing courses and degrees related to the following program or degrees: Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16 V.S.A. §176 and 176a

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The State Board of Education is responsible for issuing Certificates of Approval and Certificates of Degree-Granting Authority, or both, to applicant postsecondary schools whose objectives, programs and resources, including personnel, curriculum, finances and facilities, are found to be adequate and appropriate for the stated purpose and for the protection of students and the public interest.

The main campus of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is located in Manchester, New Hampshire and operates under the approval of the New Hampshire Department of Education. SNHU's Field-based Graduate Program in Education has been operating programs in Vermont since 2001.

SNHU is seeking approval to offer credit-bearing courses and authority to grant the additional degree of Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.). The proposed program in Vermont is offered to cohorts of students who progress through the program requirements together. The Agency contracted with the Vermont Higher Education Council (VHEC) to conduct a review of SNHU's application and program. VHEC's resulting report (attached) recommends SNHU "be certified without stipulation to add the Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) to its existing Vermont degree-granting authority.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Fiscal impacts to the Agency of Education or the State of Vermont include the staff time necessary to process the request and formulate this recommendation to the State Board and the contracted fee to VHEC for the review. Costs have been offset by SNHU's payment to the Agency of a \$7,500 application fee.

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