

Critical Crossroads: Online Learning as a Bridge to...

A Presentation to Vermont Legislators
by
The New England Board of Higher Education

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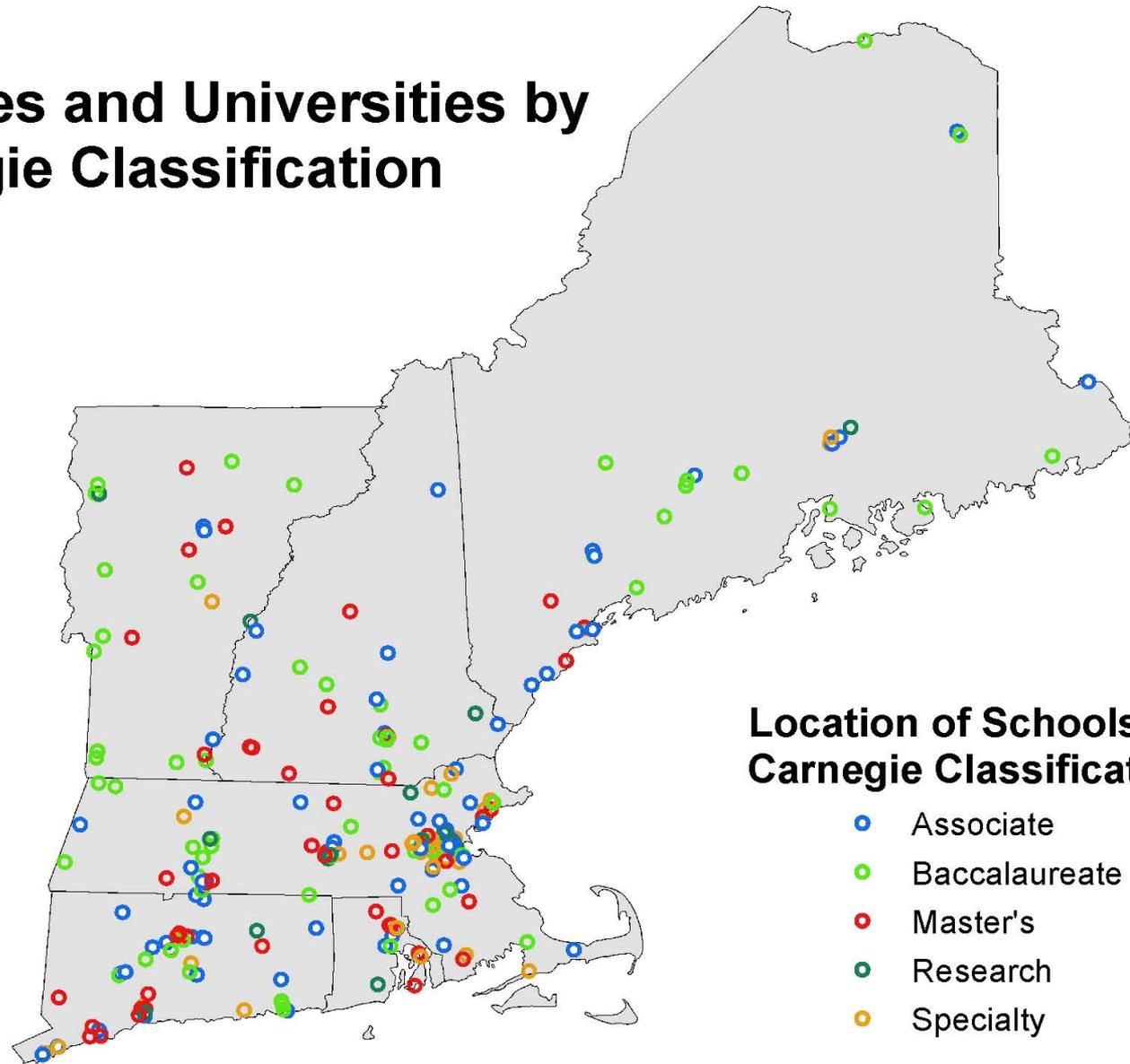
New England at a Glance

New England is home to 260 non-profit postsecondary institutions...

- Contribute an estimated \$100 billion annually in overall impact
(Source: Unpublished NEASC estimates for AY2009-10)
- Employ over 200,000 people—almost 230,000 when including medical staff as of Fall 2011
- Enrolled 967,322 students in Fall 2010
- Grant over 200,000 degrees annually



Colleges and Universities by Carnegie Classification



About NEBHE

- Interstate agency, chartered by New England Governors in 1955
- Mission: Expand educational opportunities and resources
- Key areas:
 - Cost savings & affordability
 - College readiness & success
 - Policy leadership on key issues related to education & economy
 - Strengthening higher education's link to local and regional economic development



About NEBHE



- Regional Student Program “Tuition Break”
- Issue-oriented Conferences & Annual Excellence Awards
- Professional & Curriculum Development in STEM fields
- *The New England Journal of Higher Education (formerly Connection)*
- Policy & Research Reports, including “Trends & Indicators”
- Master Property Insurance Cost-saving Collaborative



Critical Crossroads

- Difficult recovery from 2008 recession
- Continued decline of public support for higher education
- Pressure on all institutional revenue streams has led Moody's to downgrade its outlook for U.S. higher education to *negative*
- Clear national mandate to radically expand the number of citizens with postsecondary credentials
 - Projected increase in demand for individuals with postsecondary credentials, suggesting that in New England, 64% of jobs will require some postsecondary education by 2018; of these jobs, 72% or 3.7 million jobs will require a postsecondary degree.
(Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce)



Higher Education Policy Issues

- NEBHE Policy Issue Survey Fall 2012 sent to regional postsecondary institutions, state agencies, legislators and think tanks.
- Key areas of interest:
 - Affordability
 - College Readiness
 - College Completion



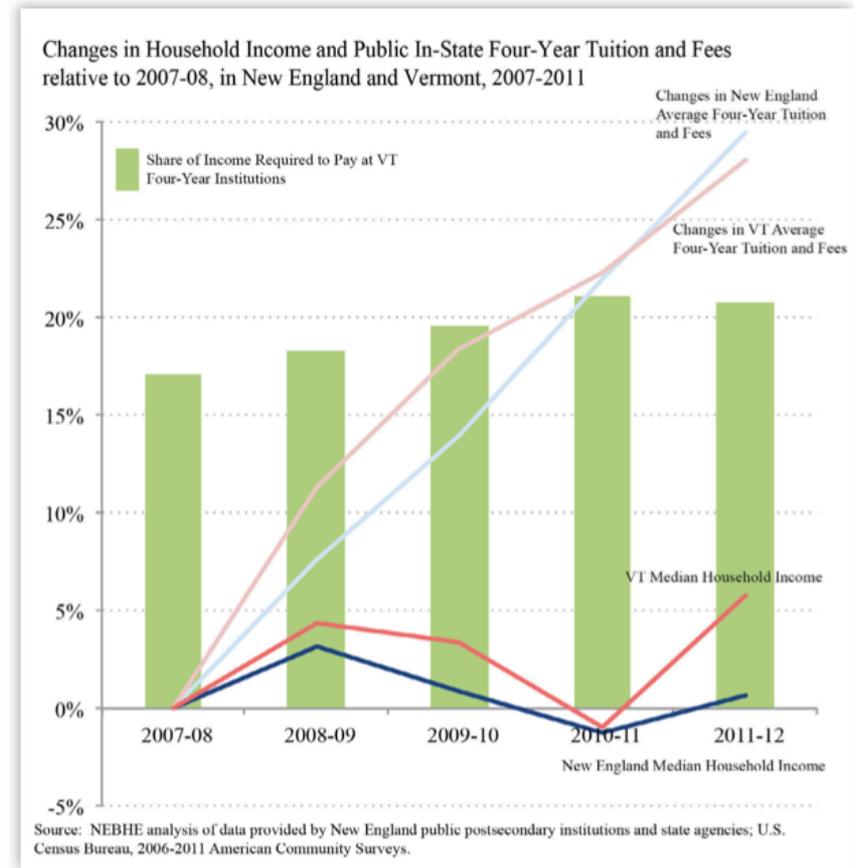
Higher Education Policy Issues

Other areas of interest?



In Vermont...

- Vermont has some of the highest public in-state tuition and mandatory fee rates in the region.
- Published tuition and fee rates represent some of the highest shares of median household income at both 2- and 4-year institutions



- Vermont provided the most state grant dollars per state resident in New England (NASSGAP 2010-11 Annual Survey)



In Vermont...

- In 2010-11, Vermont had the lowest state appropriations per FTE.
- Between FY11 and FY13, state appropriations in Vermont have declined overall, as they have in a majority of states.

State	FY11 State Appropriations per FTE
CT	\$8,176
US	\$6,290
ME	\$6,155
MA	\$5,599
RI	\$4,674
NH	\$2,646
VT	\$2,599



Policy and Practice

- Institutional funding models
- Student financing models
- Content delivery
 - When (high school, college, summer)
 - Where (work-based learning, co-op, practicum sites)
 - How (online, technology-enabled, face-to-face)



Policy and Practice

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Policy and Practice

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 - How (online, technology-enabled, face-to-face)
 - Lowering student and institutional cost
 - Increasing access



Online Education

- Almost 1 in 3 students take at least one online course.
- Online enrollment is still growing, even though this year was the first year overall higher education enrollment dipped.
- In 2012, almost 70% of chief academic leaders said online learning is critical to their institution's long-term strategy—a significant increase from less than 50% in 2002.



Online in New England

- More than 1 in 3 New England institutions offer distance learning options

	Institutional Offerings	Partnerships with third-parties
Online Courses & Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charter Oak State College• UMass Online• University of Maine at Presque Isle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Straighterline• Coursera, edX, Udacity through ACE credit• 2Tor
Technology Enabled Courses & Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of New Hampshire through lecture capture software on-site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NEBHE Developmental Math Demonstration Project• Bunker Hill Community College

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

- Providers include Coursera, edX and Udacity
- Other institutions have started offering their own MOOCs (and LOOCs, Little Open Online Courses)
 - Ex. Bill & Melinda Gates support for institutions to develop introductory and remedial-level courses in third-party partnerships

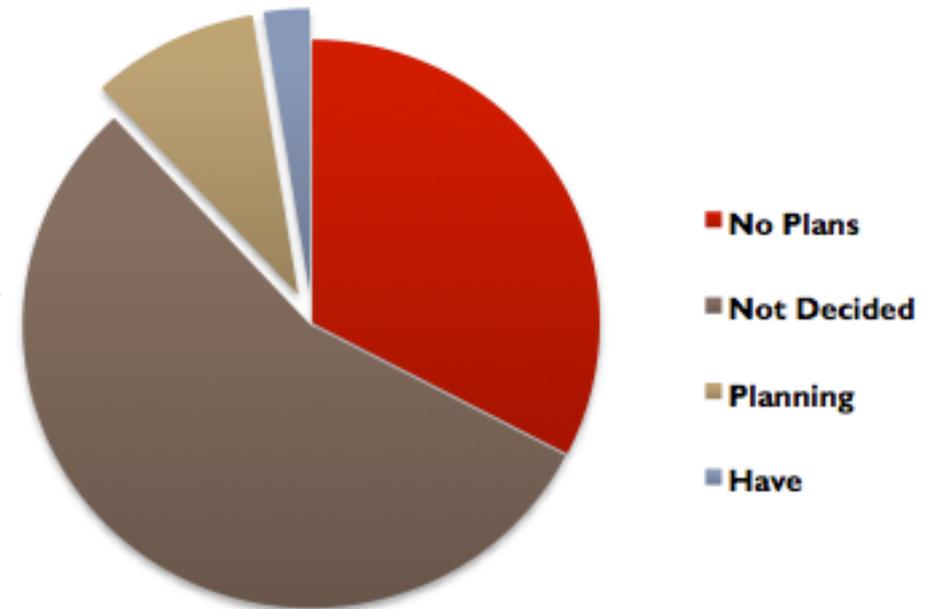
Platform	Number of Partner Institutions	Number of Courses
Coursera	32	222
edX	6	24
Udacity	1	20



Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

- Only a small segment of higher education institutions are experimenting with MOOCs (3% offer MOOCs and 9% are planning them).
- Concerns include:
 - Often times lower retention rates in online coursework
 - A need for greater self-efficacy among students taking online courses
 - The perception of how online coursework might be perceived by employers

Plans for MOOCs - 2012



Online Learning as a Bridge...

Key questions for evaluating online learning (& MOOCs) opportunities:

- Target student body?
- Institutional/system goals?

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potentially lower institutional costs and/or scale services to more students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potentially more time needed for course development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potentially greater student access and course-taking options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need for up-to-date technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May assist students in exploring new fields of study/institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May not be appropriate for all students



Possible Areas of Work Moving Forward

- Convene a task force or committee to evaluate current and potential online education opportunities in Vermont
- Consider the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement currently being drafted in the context of current state statute
- Are there ways NEBHE can assist in your work?



Questions & Comments

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Student Debt In Vermont

State	% with Debt, Class of 2011
CT	64%
ME	71%
MA	65%
NH	75%
RI	69%
VT	63%

- In 2011, Vermont was among the top ten high-debt states
- Average debt among graduating members of the Class of 2011 came in at \$28,273; the 4th highest in New England, behind NH, RI, and CT.
- It is estimated that in Vermont, 63% of the Class of 2011 graduated with debt.



Notes on Babson Survey Research Group Findings

- Findings represent 62.3% of the total institutions surveyed (2,820 or 4,527); institutions included in the analysis represent 83.3% of all higher education enrollments.
- Findings on plans to incorporate MOOCs into an institution's course offerings varied according to whether or not the institution already offered online degree programs, online courses, or no online offerings.

Plans for MOOCs - 2012

