



2019

STATE EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

Connecticut

The Hartford Promise

Maine

Wendy Ault

Executive Director, MELMAC Education Foundation

Massachusetts

Judith Block McLaughlin

Senior Lecturer on Education & Educational Chair, Seminar for New Presidents, Harvard
Graduate School of Education

New Hampshire

The UNIQUE College Investing Plan (NH)

Fidelity Investments

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Promise

Vermont

Martha O'Connor

Former Chair, Vermont State College Board of Trustees

NEW ENGLAND EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont



2018

STATE EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

Connecticut

David Levinson

President, Norwalk Community College
& Vice President, Connecticut Community Colleges

New Hampshire

Lucille Jordan

President, Nashua Community College

Rhode Island

General Dynamics Electric Boat

&

Westerly Education Center

Vermont

Sister **Janice Ryan**

Former President, Trinity College of Vermont

NEW ENGLAND EXCELLENCE AWARD

Edward R. MacKay

Former Chancellor, University System of New Hampshire



2017

STATE EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

Connecticut

Walter Harrison

President, University of Hartford

Maine

**Summer Success Academy,
Student Success Center
and Student Veterans of America
at Eastern Maine Community College**

Massachusetts

John J. Sbrega

President, Bristol Community College

New Hampshire

New Hampshire College & University Council

Vermont

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders

NEW ENGLAND EXCELLENCE AWARD

Sen. James Dill

Maine Legislature & Professor, University of Maine

Note: In 2017, NEBHE changed the format of our New England Higher Education Excellence Awards. State Merit Awards became State Excellence Awards, and the five Regional Excellence Awards became a single New England Excellence Award.



2016

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The David and Rosamond Putnam Family

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
Dana Mohler-Faria, Former President, Bridgewater State University
and
Barbara Murphy, President Emerita, Johnson State College

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement
Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
Rev. David Cannon, Former Chair, Connecticut Community Colleges

The Business Contribution to Higher Education Award
ALEX AND ANI
Cianbro
The Whitcraft Group, LLC

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
Jeffrey Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP),
University of Connecticut

Maine
Personalized Learning Program at the University of Maine Presque Isle

Massachusetts
Ahmed Abdelal, Provost, University of Massachusetts Lowell

New Hampshire
Dana Hamel

Rhode Island
Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed, Rhode Island General Assembly

Vermont
Atmospheric Sciences Program at Lyndon State College



2015

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
James T. Brett, President, The New England Council

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
Tim Donovan, Former Chancellor, Vermont State Colleges

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
Patricia Collins, Former Chair, Board of Trustees, University of Maine System
and
Samuel S. Bergami, Jr., Chair, Board of Governors, University of New Haven

The Business Contribution to Higher Education Award
Dyn

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
Booker T. DeVaughn, President Emeritus, Three Rivers Community College

Maine
University of New England

Massachusetts
Carole A. Cowan, President, Middlesex Community College

New Hampshire
Father Jonathan DeFelice, Former President, Saint Anselm College

Rhode Island
Susan F. Lusi, Superintendent, Providence Schools

Vermont
Mark S. Young, Trustee, University of Vermont



2014

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership

Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker, Massachusetts House of Representatives

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement

Elsa M. Núñez, President, Eastern Connecticut State University

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement

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The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship

Edward C. Dupont, Chair, Board of Trustees, University System of New Hampshire
and

Gary W. Moore, Chair, Board of Trustees, Vermont State Colleges

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut

Fairfield University/Bridgeport Schools Partnership

Maine

Target Technology Incubator, University of Maine

Massachusetts

Mary K. Grant, President, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

New Hampshire

**Franklin Pierce University/Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club Camp Quest
Program**

Rhode Island

Adrian van Alphen, Director, Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

Vermont

J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation



2013

SPECIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Robert D. Ballard, Director, Institute for Archaeological Oceanography

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership

Thomas D. Ritter, Former Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives
and Trustee, University of Connecticut

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement

Ray M. Di Pasquale, Commissioner, Rhode Island Board of Governors of Higher Education
&

Donald R. Vickers, President and CEO, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Scholarship Program

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship

Louise S. Berry, Former Chair, Board of Trustees; Connecticut Community College System
&

James Karam, Former Chair, Board of Trustees, University of Massachusetts
and President and CEO, First Bristol Corporation

**REGIONAL AND STATE MERIT EXCELLENCE AWARDS
FOR BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION TO HIGHER EDUCATION:**

Connecticut

Employee Scholar Program, United Technologies

Maine

Unum

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Community Colleges Experiential Education Committee

New Hampshire

Northeast Delta Dental

Rhode Island

Neil Steinberg and The Rhode Island Foundation

Vermont

Johnson State College External Degree Program



2012

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership

The Hon. Deval Patrick, Governor, Massachusetts

&

The Hon. Donald L. Carcieri, former Governor, Rhode Island

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement

Richard A. Gustafson, former Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement

Bunker Hill Community College Learning Communities

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship

Cornelius Hogan, Chair, Board of Trustees, Vermont College of Fine Arts

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut

Connecticut College of Technology (Connecticut Community College System) and Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, Director

Maine

Early College for ME, Maine Community College System

Massachusetts

Donald J. Smyth, Trustee, Bristol Community College

New Hampshire

Paul J. LeBlanc, President, Southern New Hampshire University

Rhode Island

Ronald K. Machtley, President, Bryant University

Vermont

Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), University of Vermont



2011

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. Patrick J. Leahy, United States Senator, Vermont

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
Terrence MacTaggart, former Chancellor, University of Maine System

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
Eastern Connecticut State University & Quinebaug Valley Community College Dual Enrollment Program

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
Kimon Zachos, Trustee, Southern New Hampshire University

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
The Hon. Denise Merrill, Connecticut Secretary of State and former member of the Connecticut House of Representatives

Maine
The Bernard Osher Foundation

Massachusetts
The Hon. Steven C. Panagiotakos, former member of the Massachusetts Senate

New Hampshire
New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF)
Center for College Planning

Rhode Island
Big Picture Learning and Dennis Littky, Co-Founder and Co-Director

Vermont
Vermont Dual Enrollment Program



2010

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. John F. Tierney, U.S. Representative, Massachusetts

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
James Wright, President Emeritus, Dartmouth College, New Hampshire

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
College of the Atlantic, Maine

&
David F. Finney, President, Champlain College, Vermont

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
The Hon. Martha P. Heath, Vermont House of Representatives
&
Robert K. Sheridan, President and CEO, The Savings Bank Life Insurance Company
of Massachusetts

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
Capital Crossroads to Careers (C3) Program, Capital Community College

Maine
Henry Bourgeois, Executive Director, Maine Compact for Higher Education

Massachusetts
Northeastern University Cooperative Education Program

New Hampshire
Energy Services and Technology Program, Lakes Region Community College

Rhode Island
Daniel McKee, Mayor, Town of Cumberland

Vermont
Quantum Leap, Bennington College



2009

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. George J. Mitchell, Former U.S. Senator, Maine

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
David S. Wolk, President, Castleton State College, Vermont

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement
Sol Gittleman, Tufts University, Massachusetts

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
Paul J. Holloway, Chair, Board of Trustees, Community College System of New Hampshire
&
Lawrence D. McHugh, Chair, Board of Trustees, Connecticut State University System

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
Merle W. Harris, President Emerita, Charter Oak State College

Maine
Robert L. Woodbury, Former Chancellor, University of Maine System

Massachusetts
Senator Frederick E. Berry, Majority Leader, Massachusetts State Senate

New Hampshire
The Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication, Franklin Pierce University

Rhode Island
The Hon. John C. Revens, Jr., Senate President Pro Tempore, Rhode Island State Senate

Vermont
Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center



2008

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. John H. Lynch, Governor, New Hampshire

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
Robert L. Carothers, President, University of Rhode Island

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
Boys & Girls Club of Burlington, Vermont

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
Robert S. Karam, Principal, Karam Financial Group, Massachusetts

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut

Jonathan Daube, President, Manchester Community College

Maine

Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts School-to-College Data Policy Team

New Hampshire

Keene State College's Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies

Rhode Island

Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center

Vermont

John F. Brennan, President, Green Mountain College



2007

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. James M. Jeffords, Former U.S. Senator, Vermont

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
John Silber, President-Emeritus, Boston University

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
Frederick Hutchinson Center, University of Maine
&
The School of Community Economic Development, Southern New Hampshire
University

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
Michael Audet, Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, Vermont State Colleges

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
Connecticut-Baden-Wurttemberg Sister-State Higher Education Program

Maine
Onward Program, University of Maine

Massachusetts
Dr. Irving Fradkin, Founder and President-Emeritus, Dollars for Scholars

New Hampshire
Ingrid Lemaire, New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation
&
Peter V. Sampo, Founder and President-Emeritus, Thomas More College of
Liberal Arts

Rhode Island
The Initiative to Educate Afghan Women

Vermont
The Hon. James H. Douglas, Governor, State of Vermont



2006

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. J. Joseph Garrahy, Former Governor, Rhode Island

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
Father J. Donald Monan, Chancellor, Boston College

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
Project Running Start, New Hampshire Technical Community College System

The David C. Knapp Award for Trusteeship
Grace K. Fey, Former Trustee, University of Massachusetts Boston

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
William J. Cibes, Chancellor, Connecticut State University System
&
William H. Schwab (*posthumously*), President-Emeritus, Norwalk Community College

Maine
Maine Policy Review, University of Maine

Massachusetts
Ann Coles, Senior Vice President, College Access Program, TERI (The Education Resource Institute) and Director, Pathways to College Network

New Hampshire
Jobs for New Hampshire's Graduates

Rhode Island
Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority

Vermont
International Business Machines (IBM)/Vermont State Colleges/The University of Vermont Education Consortium Project



2005

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
Dr. Frank Newman, Former Director of The Futures Project, Brown University

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
The Hon. Melody A. Currey, State Representative, Connecticut

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellows Project, University of Maine,
Orono

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut
Connecticut Health Hospital Education Partners

Maine
Parents as Scholars Program

Massachusetts
Richard Freeland, President, Northeastern University

New Hampshire
New Hampshire Institute of Politics, Saint Anselm College

Rhode Island
The Hon. Frank Caprio, Chair, Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher
Education

Vermont
University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture



2004

REGIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS:

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. Jeanne Shaheen, Former Governor, New Hampshire

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
The Hon. Claiborne Pell, Former U. S. Senator, Rhode Island

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
Changing Lives Through Literature Program

STATE MERIT AWARDS:

Connecticut

Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium

Maine

Habib Dagher, Professor, University of Maine

Massachusetts

Andrew Scibelli, President, Springfield Technical Community College

New Hampshire

The Hon. Judd Gregg, Senator, New Hampshire

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education

Vermont

**The University of Vermont's Partnership with Metropolitan High Schools
with Underrepresented Populations**



2003

The Governor Walter R. Peterson Award for Leadership
The Hon. Edward M. Kennedy, U.S. Senator, Massachusetts

The Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement
Dr. Marja Hurley, Professor of Medicine, University of Connecticut Health Center

The Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement for Program Achievement
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Special Posthumous Award
Eleanor M. McMahon, Former Commissioner of Higher Education, Rhode Island