



June 13, 2023

Dr. Michael S. Roth
President
Wesleyan University
229 High Street, South College Building
Middletown, CT 06459

Dear President Roth:

I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on April 21, 2023, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the update regarding Wesleyan University's Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) degree offered through its Center for Prison Education (CPE) program at the Cheshire Correctional Institution and York Correctional Institution as well as the report of the evaluator and took the following action:

that the update regarding Wesleyan University's Center for Prison Education initiative be accepted and inclusion of Cheshire Correctional Institution and the York Correctional Institution as instructional locations within the institution's accreditation be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

The Commission accepted the update from Wesleyan University (Wesleyan) and confirmed inclusion of the additional instructional locations at Cheshire Correctional Institution and York Correctional Institution within the institution's accreditation because the update addressed the concerns raised in our letter of March 23, 2020 and provided evidence that the institution is implementing programming at the additional locations in a manner consistent with Commission standards and policies.

The Commission appreciates the update regarding Wesleyan's Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree program offered to incarcerated students at Cheshire and York Correctional Institutions. We understand that the University plans for the programs to become Pell-eligible once Pell is reinstated for incarcerated students, and it is committed to "fill any deficits in funding to ensure that students receive the support they need to pursue the BLS degree." The Commission is gratified to learn that the rigor of the CPE program "mirrors the rigor of traditional campus courses," and we note with favor the many ways in which faculty and staff support students in the program. Students have access to laptops during study halls which are supported by CPE staff, tutors, TAs and/or faculty members; a "warmline" has been established which allows students to make free-of-charge calls to faculty and staff; advising sessions are held twice per semester by both faculty and CPE staff; and student research requests for full access to articles are fulfilled by CPE staff.

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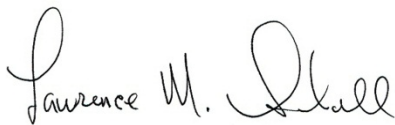
Students “praised and expressed gratitude for CPE staff members” and the help they provide throughout the process of charting the “right educational path that suits the students’ individual needs.”

The Commission expressed appreciation for the update from Wesleyan University and the report of the evaluator and hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation in the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution’s constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution’s governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to John Frank. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission’s action to others, in accordance with the enclosed policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

If you have any questions about the Commission’s action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence M. Schall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Russell Carey

RC/sjp

cc: John Frank
Evaluator

Enclosure: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions