



Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Higher Education  
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February 9, 2023

Ellen V. Futter  
President  
American Museum of Natural History  
200 Central Park West at 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10024-5192

Dear President Futter,

Congratulations on securing institutional accreditation with the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) effective January 10, 2023. We are pleased that the Board of Regents' decision not to renew its recognition as an institutional accrediting agency with the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) will not impact the institution's ability to continue to serve its students. As you know, our recognition will end May 9, 2023.

NECHE confirmed its granting of institutional accreditation and the effective date of January 10, 2023. Accordingly, we are in the process of revising the institution's record on the USDE's Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs (DAPIP) to reflect the voluntary withdrawal of institutional accreditation from the NYS Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education as of January 9, 2023.

On behalf of the New York State Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education, please accept my best wishes for continued success in serving the students and executing the very important mission of the American Museum of Natural History. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you and your institution related to program approval and relevant NYS higher education regulations and initiatives.

Sincerely,

William P. Murphy, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner

Cc: Dr. John Flynn, Dean  
Rebecca Johnson, Director of Administration  
Dr. Miguel Cardona, United States Secretary of Education  
Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group  
Lawrence Schall, President, New England Commission on Higher Education  
Lester W. Young, Jr., Chancellor, New York State Board of Regents  
Betty Rosa, Commissioner, New York State Education Department  
Emily J. Sutherland, Director, Office of College and University Evaluation  
Kathleen F. Egan, Supervisor, Higher Education Programs  
Lorena Coscio, Associate in Higher Education  
Student and Exchange Visitor Program

**From:** [Rebecca Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Lorena Coscio](#)  
**Cc:** [John Flynn](#); [Laura Gambino](#); [Leslie Templeman](#)  
**Subject:** AMNH Institution Accreditation Transition to NECHE Final  
**Date:** Friday, January 20, 2023 8:33:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [RGGG at The American Museum of Natural History - Accreditation 9.29.22 formal letter.pdf](#)  
[Update Approval Notice. change of accreditor AMNH - 04171900 1-10-23.pdf](#)  
[American Museum of Natural History 04171900-final email .pdf](#)

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Dear Lorena,

I am writing to update you on the status of the institutional accreditation transition of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) to the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). On September 23, 2022, NECHE voted to grant us accreditation, pending approval from the U.S. Department of Education (per updates to U.S. Department of Education procedures in July 2022, requiring their review and approval as a final step before changing accrediting agency).

Attached is a letter from NECHE announcing the Commission vote, as well as a letter of January 10, 2023, from the US Department of Education (sent by Marie Bangura of the FSA office of the U.S. Department of Education; also cc-ed to Emily Sutherland and "ocueinfo" at NYSED), providing formal approval for AMNH's change in accreditor from the NYS Regents/NYSED to the New England Commission for Higher Education (NECHE).

**ACTION:** With this approval and recognition by the US Department of Education on 1/10/23, AMNH is relinquishing its accreditation with NSYED effective 1/09/2023, and AMNH's new institutional accreditor now is NECHE effective 1/10/23.

Could you please confirm receipt of this notice, and that no further action is required with NYSED/NYS Regents to implement this change in accreditor?

We thank the NYSED Office of College and University Evaluation and the Regents for your prior assistance with our institutional accreditation since 2009, and for ongoing interactions and support relating to our academic programs.

Most sincerely,

## **Rebecca Johnson**

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