



# USNH Hosts Northern New England Higher Education Summit

*Collaborations seek to bend the cost curve of higher education.*

**Concord, May 29, 2018** – In a collective effort to reduce the costs of higher education, educational leaders across northern New England met to explore areas for collaboration to improve the student experience and bend the cost curve of higher education. The University System of New Hampshire hosted the summit with leaders from the University Systems of Maine and the Vermont State Colleges System. The summit presented an opportunity to discuss the challenges each system faces, as well as potential solutions.

“We definitely had some lively and energetic discussions,” stated USNH Chancellor Todd Leach. “This was a great opportunity for us to get to know our counterparts in northern New England, learn from them and share some of our success stories. We are always looking for opportunities to improve our operations and, even more importantly, to innovate to make all of our university systems more efficient.”

Higher education across New England faces challenges including shrinking demographics and lower state support. The summit was designed to look at ways to address these challenges and to identify the resources to develop solutions. Conversations centered around the benefit of shared services and procurement, which could potentially save each system millions of dollars.

The summit ended with a commitment of the three university systems to work together, share information and best practices, benchmark data and advance accreditation policies.

“There are many similarities between our systems,” stated Chancellor Leach. “While we are all competing for students from the same limited pool, we also share the same mission of providing accessible, high-quality education to our respective student populations. Working with our colleagues across northern New England was a good first step to encourage collaboration that will ultimately improve the student experience and lower administrative costs.”

## **About USNH**

The University System of New Hampshire strives to ensure the availability of appropriate higher educational opportunities to all New Hampshire people; seeks to enroll a diverse student population to enhance educational experiences; and provides programs and activities based on a commitment to excellence. The 29-member Board of Trustees is responsible for the oversight of the University System, which includes the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College, and Granite State College.