Rating Agencies Give USNH an “A+”
Lower Interest Rates Benefit NH Students and Families

April 10th, 2015 - Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services has upgraded its outlook of the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) from stable to positive and affirmed its A+ long-term rating. In its report announcing the new rating, Standard & Poor’s Rating Services stated, “The positive outlook reflects the system’s resiliency through reductions in state support and enrollment pressure.”

USNH board chair Pamela Diamantis applauded the positive outlook stating, “While we continue to deal with the challenges that come with being funded at the lowest levels in the nation, we are pleased to be recognized for effectively managing those limited resources. Through sound fiscal management and good stewardship, USNH is realizing higher bond ratings which lower the interest rates we pay for campus projects. As a result, we are stretching tax dollars, providing the best possible learning experience at the lowest possible cost to New Hampshire students and their families.”

“Our state’s future workforce depends on our leadership to manage our assets and invest wisely in projects that will keep New Hampshire students in New Hampshire, while also allowing us to attract out-of-state students who add to the workforce and provide the economies of scale necessary for us to maintain affordability,” stated USNH chancellor Dr. Todd Leach. “We are pleased that our careful financial management has positively impacted our ratings. Higher bond ratings allow us to access financial resources at lower rates which ultimately lower our operating costs and benefit New Hampshire students and their families.”

Moody’s Investors Service also reaffirmed its Aa3 rating of the University System of New Hampshire.

In its report, Moody’s stated, “The Aa3 long-term rating reflects the system’s important role as New Hampshire’s four-year public higher education provider and strong management and governance as evidenced by consistently positive operations and multi-year growth of financial resources. The stable outlook reflects USNH’s track record of positive operating performance, despite steep cuts in state funding and pressure on growth of net tuition revenue. We expect that the system’s strong leadership team will carefully navigate a challenging state funding environment.”

To view Moody’s full report visit: https://www.moodys.com/research/Moodys-assigns-Aa3-to-University-System-of-New-Hampshires-115M--PR_322440

About USNH
The University System of New Hampshire strives to ensure the availability of higher educational opportunities to all New Hampshire citizens; seeks to enroll a diverse student population to enhance educational experiences; and provides programs and activities based on a commitment to excellence. The 27-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.
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