



Mater Ecclesiae College

President's Report

Volume 5, Issue 1
Spring 2011

What is NEASC?

According to its website, "the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) provides accreditation services for more than 2000 public and private institutions in the six state region - Pre-K through university. NEASC consists of six Commissions, each of which sets the standards for a particular segment of the educational community. The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges is the regional accreditation agency for colleges and universities in the six New England states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Commission consists of faculty and administrators from affiliated institutions and public members.

"The Commission is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a reliable authority on the quality of education for the institutions it accredits. The Commission is also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), affirming that its Standards and processes are consistent with the quality, improvement, and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.



Updates in this issue

Groundbreaking News

What is NEASC?

What does accreditation mean to you?

Preparing for the 2010 NEASC visit

Mater Ecclesiae College receives initial accreditation



I open this President's Report with great news! We have received initial accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

After years of work, this is a great gift from God. First and foremost, I would like to thank all

those who have helped us to achieve this step, especially the faculty, staff and students here at MEC! I also thank the friends, families and benefactors, and all the NEASC visiting teams who helped us on our journey.

In 2004 the journey began. In that year, we received initial approval from the Rhode Island Board of Governors of Higher Education (RIBGHE) and presented our Report of Eligibility to the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Since then we have conducted two comprehensive self-studies and one focused self-study, all of which culminated with on-site evaluation visits in 2005, 2008 and this past November 2010.

The NEASC Board of Trustees voted on March 16, 2006, to grant Mater Ecclesiae candidacy status with the CIHE effective November 16, 2005. Our candidacy status was renewed on September 19th, 2008 and on March 10th we

received the news that we had been granted initial accreditation effective November 10, 2010.

Mater Ecclesiae College is looking forward to the graduation ceremony to be held in June. Stay tuned to the website for more information.

Again, I thank you for your continued prayers and support. This process has taught me a lot about faith and perseverance in prayer. This gift comes from God's hands because he wants apostles well prepared to spread his kingdom.

Mrs. Lourdes Fernandez



Giving thanks after receiving the news!



Mater Ecclesiae College
Integra Mulier

Integra Mulier

Visit Preparation

Mater Ecclesiae students help prepare the house for the visit.



Workroom

MEC prepared a workroom for the NEASC visiting team.



What does accreditation mean to you?

Patricia Camarero, Dean of Academic Affairs: We have a very unique student body. They are very dedicated and hard working, and I am very pleased that they will receive the recognition they deserve.

Mary Patt Pirie, Director of Experiential Learning: Participating in the final stage of the accreditation process has been a learning experience, both from a professional standpoint and as a realization of the enormous worth of the commitment of this team of educators. Although I have known some of them for years, I have come to appreciate each of them and their personal dedication to the mission of Mater Ecclesiae in a new way. This initial accreditation is an invitation for all of us to continue striving for excellence in the fulfillment of that mission: placing young consecrated women at the service of mankind as leaders and positive agents for change."

Jacqueline Gonzalez, Dean of Students: It means years of work, effort, assessment, prayer and teamwork! I arrived to MEC 6 years ago, as a freshman, and today as a dean of students for the freshman class I can say that since the first day I arrived here I felt part of the "accreditation effort" whether my contribution was to help paint some of the class room walls for the visit in 2005, or to meet with the NEASC visiting team during the last visit in November. I have always felt part of the MEC family and the accreditation team. All of us at MEC have gone through this together, sacrificed together and now rejoice together! It is our accreditation, it is our college, and it is our family! Thank you!

Jennifer Ristine, Registrar: It means that we can finally acknowledge the students' and faculty's dedication to higher education by awarding the students with a recognized diploma. They work hard and deserve it! While it has been a goal, I do not look at it as having "arrived." Only God knows where this one step fits in the bigger plan. Perhaps it is His way of opening up more possibilities of serving the Church in the future.

Nicole Stone, Junior: For me, the accreditation has been a confirmation that Christ has a big mission for us! The horizons in which we can spread the Gospel and bring Christian values to society are expanding, and it is exciting!

Natalia Santos, Senior: For me, the accreditation is both a gift and a demand. A gift, because it was given to us from God as a reward for our efforts in our studies and for the hard work of the staff. And a demand, because now, I feel that a high standard has been set and I want to do my best to reach it.

Erika Rosas, Dean of Students: The first thing that comes to mind is that we are the first Regnum Christi consecrated college. This is amazing because as consecrated members we are forming ourselves to be that light in the world that Christ talks about in the Gospel. Being a college will give our vocation as lay consecrated members more credibility in the intellectual world. It will be an opportunity for us to be who we are called to be.

Colleen Littleton, Senior: For me the accreditation means the fruit of years of work, years of sacrifice and dedication. It is a launching pad for greater credibility and stability in our preparation for a lofty mission. It means immense gratitude to all those who helped work toward this crucial step and great hope and excitement for all those who are benefiting from it now and will benefit from it in the years to come!

Naoise Johnston, Academic Secretary: Over the years many people have prayed and labored for this blessing to arrive; it is just wonderful to see all that faith and effort recognized.

Jocelyn Christianson, Dean of Students: For me, our accreditation is like opening a window to a vast horizon that is before us. God only knows what he dreams for us to do and be for His Church, but this is a significant step in the fulfillment of that dream. May He continue to guide us as He has always guided us in the past.

Mater Ecclesiae College
Integra Mulier



60 Austin Ave.
Greenville, RI 02828
401.949.2820

www.mecollege.edu
materecclesiae@materecclesiae.net

Integra Mulier