

NECC 2020 Strategic Plan Update: May 2018



Letter from Ernie Greenslade and Elle Yarborough to External Partnerships Goal Team Members

Thanks so much for your willingness to serve on the Strategic Plan's External Partnerships Goal, focused on expanding and strengthening partnerships with our external communities.

Elle and I are both sad—and, yes, a bit relieved—to report that the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which we are a part of, has decided to phase out this part of the Strategic Plan, focusing instead on three goals: Integrated Student Experience, Student Career Opportunities, and Professional Growth.

While we all agree that external partnerships are vital to the success of Northern Essex, especially as we strive to increase enrollments and bring in new sources of revenue, most of this work is already managed very capably as part of the operations of this college. Also, when the Strategic Plan was created, no one knew we would be starting a capital campaign, a major initiative which is both strategic and all-consuming for the college.

At a time when resources are limited, phasing out the External Partnerships goal seemed like the best approach for these reasons.

With your input, we did gather lots of ideas about external partnerships at Northern Essex, and how we might grow and make the best use of our relationships. Those ideas were shared with the appropriate people, so thank you.

It's likely you will share our mixed feelings about this decision. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to Elle or me or Kelly Saretsky, dean of strategic planning, institutional research and information technology. It was great working with all of you, and we will look forward to continuing to support the college's three remaining strategic goals.

Ernie and Elle