

Hello NECC Community,

Welcome back and please enjoy this January 2019 edition of the *ISE News*.

The Buzz: The Integrated Student Experience in Lawrence

About **47 percent of NECC's student headcount attended classes on our Lawrence campus in Fall 2018**. That proportion is likely to grow and it highlights the importance of delivering an Integrated Student Experience in Lawrence every bit as good as what students receive in Haverhill.

The fact that more of the physical infrastructure of the ISE exists in Haverhill now is largely an accident of timing: the Dimitry Building's closure for renovations has delayed activity in Lawrence, but we have been planning while we wait for that facility to reopen. Those plans call for a full Student Success Hub and presence for all five Academic Centers as well.

We had hoped to deliver ALL of that by this fall, but that has turned out to be too ambitious. We will get there but it is likely to take until 2020. In the meantime, here is what we WILL accomplish by this fall when Dimitry reopens:

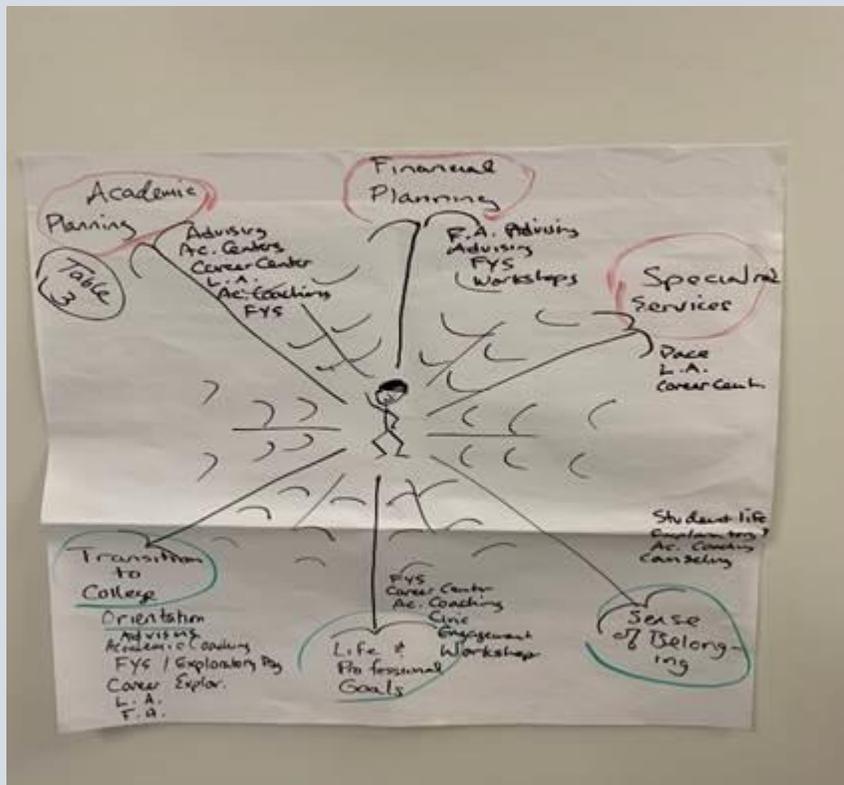
1. **Create a robust Student Success Mini-Hub in the Dimitry Building:** This would be a step toward a full Hub and be modeled very much on the successful Mini-Hub at Riverwalk. The additional advantage will be that it can connect even more easily to the student services that will be returning to Dimitry this fall.
2. **Create a Center for Health Professions in the El Hefni Building:** Health is the only area at NECC that does not have a full Academic Center yet. We will fix that by fall.
3. **Explore the possibility of creating a Center for STEM in Lawrence**, perhaps at 420 Common Street: This one depends on a lot of things going right and we are investigating now.
4. **Provide some (likely small for now) shared space for the Centers of Business and Accounting, Liberal Arts, and Professional Studies in Dimitry:** We hope to allow these areas to at least have some presence on the Lawrence Campus this coming year as we await fuller facilities for them a bit later.

Meanwhile, we will continue to pursue the funds and other resources necessary to realize the full vision for ISE services in Lawrence with all deliberate speed.

What Else is Happening with the Integrated Student Experience?



Nearly 80 staff and faculty worked hard at **The Student Success Hub (SSH) Mini-Summit** on December 14th to consider the pathway new students at the college should follow to ensure they feel welcomed, that they all get what they need, and that they are well positioned to transition to an Academic Center. This is a complicated and challenging task (see one vision from the summit below)! The group made good progress and this spring we will finalize this pathway and then address the thorny challenges of implementing it. The SSH will also be busy designing that new Mini-Hub in Dimitry and trying to create a similarly welcoming space in the center of the second floor of Behrakis in Haverhill.



Meanwhile, the **Academic Preparation Faculty** hosted a **Welcome Lunch for students in the Exploratory Program** on Tuesday January 22nd. The program is for undeclared students to develop their plans and interests so they can choose an Academic Center.

The **Academic Centers** are gearing up for the return of students after a very active fall semester. To take just one example, the **Center for Business and Accounting** reports that compared to last spring, student visits grew by 36 percent to over 1000 in Fall 2018 and the number of students advised or registered for courses approximately doubled, while tutoring remained a major attraction as well. Multiple Business courses contributed to the center's development, including by evaluating its Blackboard Community site and using social media for marketing. To kick off the Spring Semester, the **Center for STEM** hosted a workshop over the break featuring coding, wiring, soldering, and more. Check out some of the action on Twitter at the STEM Center Hashtag [#STEMatNECC](#).

The **Advising Council** is finalizing its **recommendations for a pilot early registration period to launch this semester**. Details about this pilot and how it will affect students and academic advisors will be communicated soon. The Council will then start work on the wider advising reforms we plan to put in place over the next 18 months. Although there is a tremendous amount of discussion and design work needed for this, the short version is that we will be moving toward a future in which new and undeclared students will be advised in the Student Success Hub and the Academic Centers will advise all other students.

The **Academic Pathway Maps** are available on the [website](#) again. You need to use the menus on the left side of the web page to find the maps under each Center. Moreover, they will now form the basis for the most exciting features of the **EAB Navigate** tool that we continue to develop for NECC use. Using Navigate and the Pathways we should be able to greatly simplify the academic planning and course registration process for students and leave more time in advising sessions for discussions about transfer, career planning, and academic support. **We need more faculty to get involved in the work on Navigate so please reach out if you have interest.**

If you wish to join the growing number of students, faculty, staff and administrators contributing to the Integrated Student Experience, please email me at wheineman@necc.mass.edu.

Bill

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