



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

Stephen L. Bowen  
COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT: # VIII.B.**

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Stephen L. Bowen, Commissioner\*

**DATE:** August 17, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Review Team Report of Findings Concerning the Application for Additional Degree-Granting Authorization as Submitted by the University of New England to Award the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree.

**BACKGROUND:** 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that a postsecondary educational institution desiring to confer additional degrees must obtain authorization from the Maine State Board of Education.

Officials of the University of New England, located in Biddeford, Maine, submitted an application seeking authority to confer an additional degree, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). A program approval visit with University of New England officials was conducted for May 12, 2011 on the UNE Portland Campus. Subsequently, the Team's report of findings was compiled and distributed during the Board's July 13, 2011 meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the State Board of Education accept the Review Team report of findings and approve the request from the University of New England for additional degree-granting authority to confer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

\*Prepared by Harry Osgood  
Higher Education Specialist