



A Message From NECHA's President

*Lauri Gallimore BS, RN
President, New England College Health Association*

Happy 2019!! The new year has brought frigid temperatures and snow for most, if not all of us. Hopefully, the winter break allowed for some **rest, rejuvenation, and reflection**. These three things are so important for self-care, which directly correlates to what we bring of ourselves in the important work we do with our students.

Reflecting on the past year, we had a great turn out for our affiliate meeting at the National ACHA meeting in Washington D.C. in June. We enjoyed brainstorming and collaborating on hot topics such as juling, suicide prevention, and outsourcing. Our NECHA annual meeting in Portland in November was full of engaging speakers, a chance to reconnect with colleagues from other schools and, of course, all that the wonderful city of Portland offers. We honored our award recipients, Wendy Sansone RN, MSN with the [Louise Gazzara award](#) and Bryant Ford, PhD, with the [President's award](#), and thank them once again for their many contributions to college health!

We said goodbye to outgoing board members Julie Ross, Judy Whyte, and Sharon Capuano. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them again for all their volunteerism and commitment to NECHA! We welcome Felix Pizzi, Leah Berkenwald, Maria Francesconi and Jeff Maher as new Board members at large. We are excited to have Tanya Sullivan as our new secretary and Liz Drexler-Hines as our President-elect. We wish Kim Daly best of luck in her new professional pursuit outside of college health.

The [board of directors](#) met on January 25th at SNHU to acquaint ourselves with one another and plan for the year ahead. We welcomed Kevin Readdean from RPI, our Region 5 representative to ACHA. It was a packed agenda and we are all very excited to be working together to continue the great work that NECHA does. Some of the items that we are working on this year include; Outreach to schools that are not yet connected with NECHA, reviewing and updating our by-laws, assisting NYSCHA with outreach for sessions, and lastly, looking carefully at feedback from our meeting in Portland to make improvements in process, as well as attract speakers for future meetings that are of interest to our constituents.

As we look at the year ahead, we are thrilled to announce that the call for proposals for the **NYSCHA | NECHA 2019 Combined Annual Meeting** is now open! This year's theme is *College Health: Encourage. Support. Inspire.* and will be held on October 23 - 25 in Saratoga Springs, NY with NYSCHA hosting. This conference is a wonderful opportunity to come together with our colleagues from NY state. Please consider submitting a proposal—**due by March 22**. For more information, visit the [NYSCHA website](#). We look forward to seeing you all in Saratoga in October!

Warm wishes for the new year,

Lauri