

Michael K. Thomas



Michael K. Thomas is the President and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) in Boston, Massachusetts, a regional organization created by the

U.S. Congress to work with the 260 colleges and universities in the six New England states. NEBHE works to expand education opportunity and services and to address issues related to New England's human capital and economic competitiveness.

Dr. Thomas directs NEBHE's policy, research, publishing and programmatic activities, focused on promoting innovative K-12, postsecondary and life-long learning policies and on expanding collaboration among leaders of business, government and education. He works extensively in state political and higher education environments with governors, state legislators, K-12 and higher education executives and with business leaders to address issues of college readiness, access and success.

He joined NEBHE in 2002 as director of policy and research and subsequently served as senior director and senior vice president. He previously worked in corporate training and human resources and in multiple roles in public and independent universities, including executive assistant to the president of Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Brigham Young University and master's degrees in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University and Harvard University. He earned a doctorate in education and social policy from Harvard University and an M.B.A. from Boston University.

He has been a faculty member, adjunct professor and lecturer at several universities. He is a trustee of New England College and served as trustee and vice chair of the board of Worcester State University. He also serves on the board of the Foundation for Student Success.