

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2023



The New England Center
for Children®
Autism Education and Research

MISSION



OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE A GLOBAL NETWORK OF EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS, AND PROGRAMS SO THAT THOSE LIVING WITH AUTISM MAY LIVE FULLER LIVES.



The New England Center
for Children®
Autism Education and Research

THANK YOU *for your support.*

Thank you to The New England Center for Children® (NECC®) community for an incredible 2023 fiscal year*!

From our center in Southborough and the 67 public school classrooms throughout New England, to our school in Abu Dhabi, clinics in Dubai, global consulting, and through our ACE® ABA Software System, NECC is helping countless learners with autism all over the world.

**2023 Fiscal Year was July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.*



PUBLIC
SCHOOL
SERVICES

ABAplus®

ACE®



In Memory of **AMY POSOCCO**

March 14, 1982 – July 7, 2023

We remember our dear friend Amy, a longtime NECC employee and member of our Public School Services team, who passed away unexpectedly in July. During her 19 years at NECC, Amy contributed in many ways, from the residential program in Southborough to MRC-NECC, and the PSS program. She was a bright, funny, and energetic person who was passionate about her work and who cared deeply for her students and colleagues.

LEADERSHIP AND BOARD

LEADERSHIP

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Joe Garbiel
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Amy Geckeler, MS, BCBA
Executive Director of Global Consulting

Heather Morrison, MS, BCBA, LABA
Executive Director, Southborough

Pam Olsen, PhD, BCBA
Executive Director, MRC-NECC (Abu Dhabi)

L. Vincent Strully, Jr.
Founder and Executive Advisor

Catherine M. Welch, MEd
Executive Advisor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President and CEO

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Rabbi Jonah Pesner

Stuart M. Rose

Daniel Saul

L. Vincent Strully, Jr.

James C. Burling, Esq., Emeritus

Governor Michael S. Dukakis, Emeritus

VISION



**OUR VISION IS A WORLD WHERE AUTISM
IS NOT A BARRIER TO HAPPINESS,
GROWTH, AND INDEPENDENCE.**

ANNUAL FUND

This year, NECC's Annual Fund was supported by **friends, past and present families, current and former staff**, and by the generosity of **corporations and foundations**. In addition, NECC raised \$1.78 million from **fundraising events**.



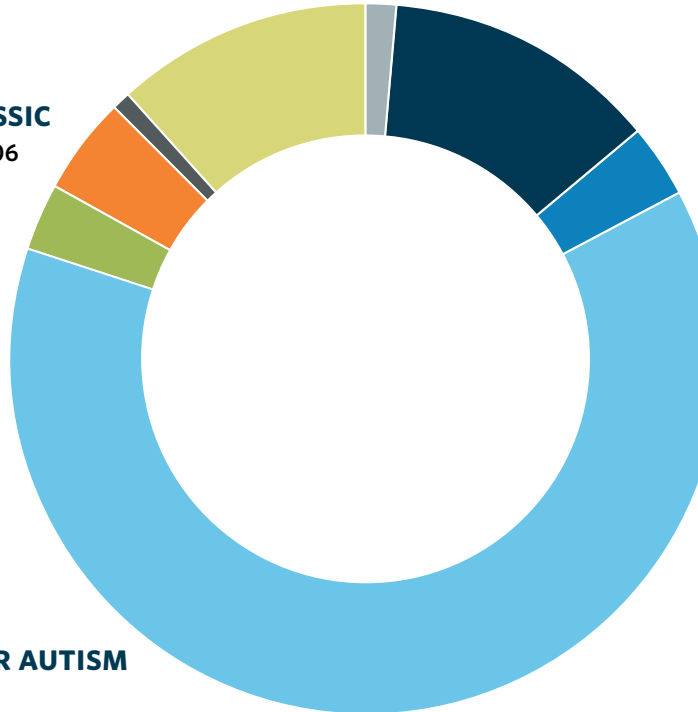
COMMUNITY AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

This fiscal year, NECC hosted seven fundraising events and fielded teams for both the Falmouth Road Race and Boston Marathon, with record-breaking fundraising totals. Parents, families, staff, donors, sponsors, and the extended NECC community rallied around these events, helping to contribute to NECC's extremely successful year of event fundraising.

5,246 GIFTS | 2,553 DONORS \$2.45 MILLION

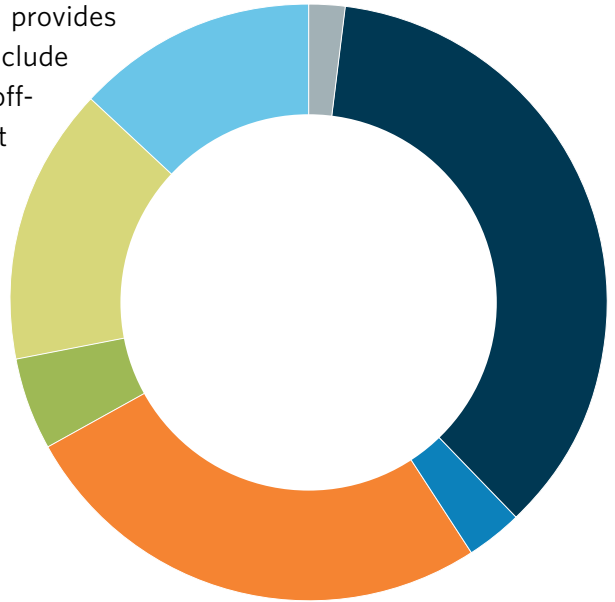


- **FALMOUTH ROAD RACE**
August 21, 2022 | \$25,920
- **CARLOS PLACIDO DUNKIN' GOLF CLASSIC**
September 12, 2022 and June 5, 2023 | \$223,306
- **NECC INVITATIONAL**
October 11, 2022 | \$61,455
- **CHILDREN OF PROMISE GALA**
November 11, 2022 | \$1,114,813
- **BOSTON MARATHON**
April 17, 2023 | \$52,129
- **MIKE DRIVE ACROSS AMERICA**
January - April 2023 | \$83,203
- **5TH ANNUAL ART SHOW**
April 27, 2023 | \$14,065
- **17TH ANNUAL NECC 5K WALK/RUN FOR AUTISM**
May 13, 2023 | \$203,478



FINANCIALS

Every dollar raised through the Annual Fund provides funding for costs not covered by tuition. These include student activities, individual student needs, off-campus activities, specialized technology, student equipment and materials, and vocational opportunities. The Annual Fund also bolsters staff development, research and training opportunities, as well as our DEI initiatives and employee resource groups.

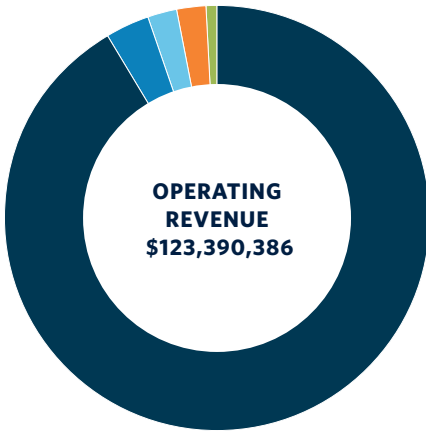


FY23 ANNUAL FUND ALLOCATION

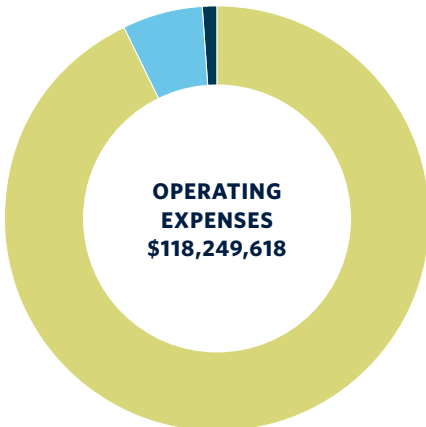
- 2% | VOCATIONAL**
Transportation, supplies
- 36% | STUDENT ACTIVITIES**
Field day, apple picking/farm trips, dances, Halloween, team-specific celebrations and outings
- 3% | INDIVIDUAL STUDENT NEEDS**
Specialized furniture for student/staff safety, student clothing, protective equipment for staff
- 26% | STAFF SUPPORT**
Parent and friend-sponsored events (staff appreciation), healthy option vending machines, small reinforcers through team budgets, staff benefits and activities such as free exercise classes and swim lessons
- 5% | DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES**
Consultation to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout NECC
- 15% | RESEARCH AND STAFF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
Conferences, staff salaries related to research, includes Infant Sibling Research Project
- 13% | STUDENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**
Fitness equipment at schools and residences, playground equipment and other outdoor activity expenditures, swimsuits, art and music supplies, minor capital improvements to school and residences



FY23 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT



- **TUITION | \$112,905,300**
Day, residential, adult, day care, partner classrooms, international
- **CONSULTING | \$4,145,719**
- **ACE® TECHNOLOGY | \$2,877,031**
- **ANNUAL FUND | \$2,452,737**
Grants, events, in-kind donations and contributions
- **OTHER | \$1,009,599**



- **PROGRAM SERVICES | \$108,458,102**
Day, residential, adult, day care, partner classrooms, international
- **ADMINISTRATIVE | \$8,504,077**
- **FUNDRAISING, MARKETING, AND PR | \$1,287,439**

ENDOWMENT



STRULLY HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE AUTISM FIELD

In April 2023, NECC and its founder, Vinnie Strully, were recognized by Autism Speaks at their annual Chef's Gala in New York City. Vinnie was also honored later that spring by Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools (MAAPS) for his decades-long leadership and dedicated career in special education.

MAAPS renamed its annual Leadership Award to the L. Vincent Strully, Jr. Leadership Award as a way of paying tribute to his innovative leadership not only on behalf of NECC, but also for his contributions to autism education across the Commonwealth.

Although Strully stepped down as NECC's CEO in August 2023, his legacy as founder will live forever in the programs and buildings he has built, as well as through the L. Vincent Strully, Jr. Endowment Fund for The New England Center for Children. The Fund, first announced at the 2022 Children of Promise Gala, was established to honor Strully's accomplishments and to ensure his work and vision continue for generations to come by recruiting and training the best staff to serve children with autism both at NECC and throughout the world. Since its launch, nearly \$10 million in commitments have been secured and will be built upon over the next few years.

\$9.2 MILLION

**AMOUNT RAISED SINCE LAUNCHING THE L. VINCENT
STRULLY ENDOWMENT FUND FOR NECC IN NOVEMBER 2022**

NECC BUILDS ON-SITE, STATE-OF-THE-ART DENTAL CLINIC

During the 2022 Children of Promise Gala, NECC announced its plans to build a state-of-the-art dental clinic operated by New England Dental Group (NEDG) in its school in Southborough. The Smigel Supersmile® Dental Clinic, which officially opened in September 2023, provides on-site dental services for NECC's 121 residential students and is the latest innovation in NECC's mission to transform the lives of children with autism.

The dental clinic is an expansion of the Smigel Supersmile® Dental Program - a dental desensitization protocol that helps prepare children with autism for dental visits that was developed by NECC researchers. NECC researchers saw a problem - that dental visits were difficult, if not impossible, for children with autism. They found a way to teach the students one step at a time until they could tolerate going to the dentist, a life-skill curriculum that is now taught around the world where autism educators are using NECC's curriculum through their ACE® ABA Software.

"Going to the dentist is stressful for lots of us, and when you consider the additional challenges children with autism face, it can lead to oral health disparities among children with autism," said NECC CEO Jessica Sassi, PhD, BCBA-D, LABA. "I really believe this is a quality-of-life issue for our students, not only being able to get them the dental care they need but doing so in a context in which they are comfortable."

The in-school clinic is staffed by New England Dental Group, which offers the full breadth of dental services and utilizes state-of-the-art technology for enhanced care in its nine locations throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The group's commitment to ensuring members of its community—including individuals with autism—receive high-quality dental care has been a driving force behind its involvement with NECC.



\$1.14 MILLION

**AMOUNT RAISED AT THE 2022 CHILDREN
OF PROMISE GALA, WHICH FUNDED THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE ON-SITE DENTAL CLINIC**





LOCAL LABOR UNIONS HELP RENOVATE ITT CLASSROOMS

In March, members of LIUNA Local 609 and Painters and Allied Trades DC 35 and Local 48 donated their time and resources to renovate the two large ITT classrooms at the school in Southborough. The workers spent many hours repainting the classrooms, repairing items in the space such as doors and ceiling tiles, and installing new equipment.

“These classrooms take a lot of wear and tear and because of the pandemic and the subsequent focus on the staffing crisis, we had not brought in a fresh set of eyes for some time,” said Jared Bouzan, MEd, NECC chief development officer. “The union workers helped to renovate and refresh the space to be more bright, cheerful, and welcoming to students and teachers.”

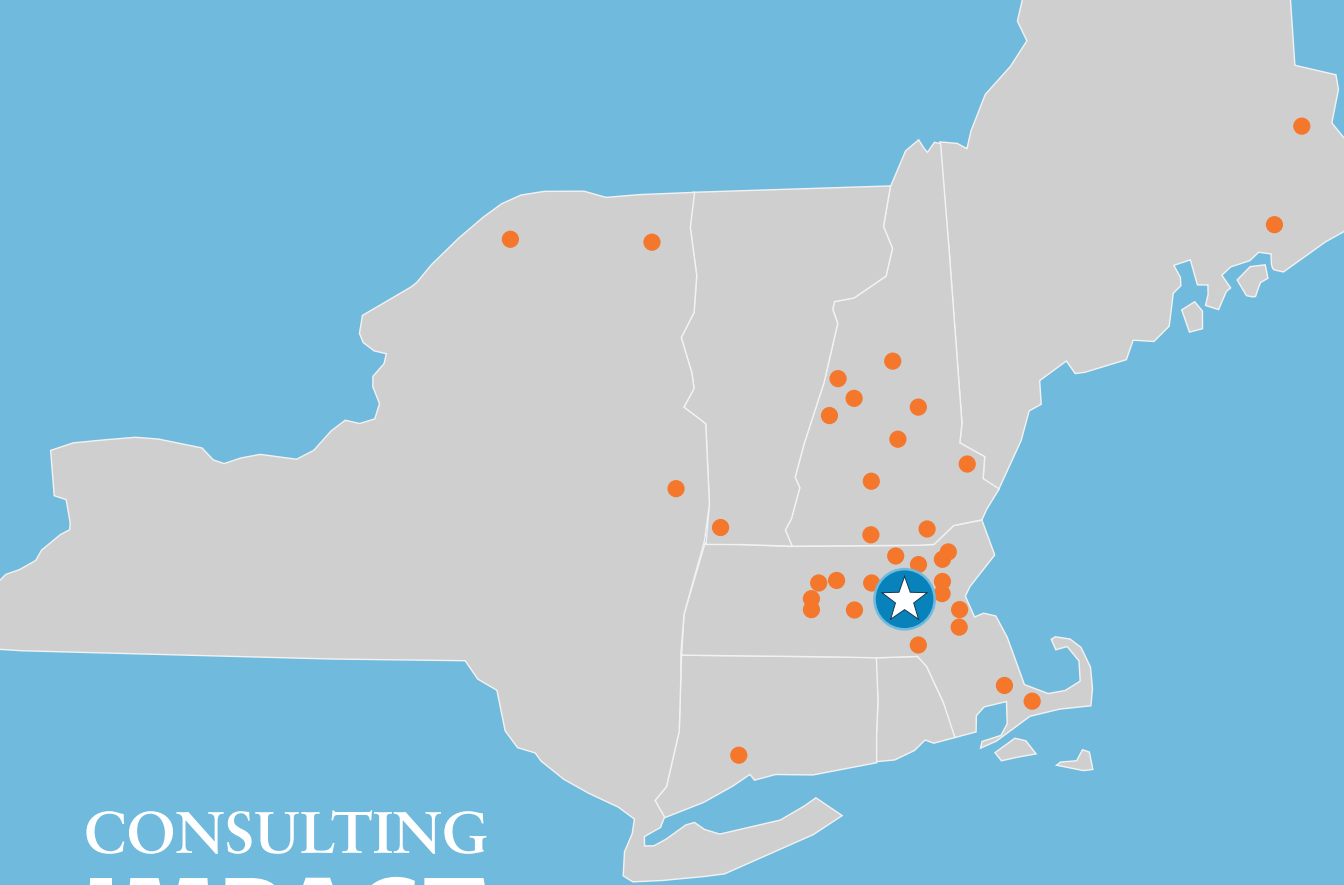
In addition to providing the labor, the unions raised more than \$6,000 for the renovations by reaching out to the local building trades

they work alongside with on construction sites every day, including LIUNA Local 609, Massachusetts and Northern New England Laborers’ District Council, Framingham-Newton Building Trades Council, and Sherwin Williams generously donated paint and supplies for the project.

“We are so grateful to the Labor’s and Painter’s Union members and to Armand E. Sabitoni, LIUNA general secretary-treasurer and New England regional manager, for donating their time, expertise, and funds to bring these classrooms back to life,” added Bouzan. “Their incredible generosity allows us to focus our valuable resources on important educational and extracurricular programming for our students. This renovation makes a world of difference to the children with autism and the teachers who spend their days working and learning in these spaces.”

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

401KQuote.com
A.C. Dispensing Equipment, Inc.
AAFCPAs Inc.
Acrelec America
Acushnet Company
Allen & Major Associates, Inc.
Allways Health Partners
Andrade Management
Apex Entertainment Marlborough
Apres Management
ARELEC
Avidia Bank
BankRI
Beals and Thomas, Inc.
BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA
Boston Harbor Wealth Advisors, LLC
Branded Management Group, Inc.
Brewer Lane Ventures
Brown & Brown of Massachusetts, LLC
C Squared Advisors, LLC
Cafua Management Co, LLC
Central Mass Allergy & Asthma
Central One Federal Credit Union
Cetrulo LLP
City Wide Facility Solutions Boston
Comcast Business
Constance O. Putnam Foundation
Construction and General Laborers
Costa Donuts Two, Inc.
D&M Civil, Inc.
Daly Kenney Group LLC
DEKK Group, LLC
Dunkin' Brands, Inc.
Ecolab
Erland Construction, Inc.
Ernst & Young
Eversource Energy
Falconi Brothers, Inc.
Fitts Insurance Agency, Inc.
Framingham-Newton BTC
Gilbane Building Company
Greenwood Industries, Inc.
Haba Wealth Management
Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, P.C.
High Quality Landscape Construction, Inc.
Income Research and Management
Inspire Brands
Integrated Benefits Group
Investment Properties, Ltd.
Keane Fire & Safety Equipment
Kearney, Donovan & McGee, LLC
Koritz Wealth Strategies, LLC
KPMG, LLP
Krispy Kreme Doughnut Corporation
Lee Kennedy Co., Inc.
Leyton Orient F.C.
Lisa, Poloski & Anasoulis LLP
Long Cadillac
M&T Bank
MA and Northern New England Laborers
Mansfield Management
Marcovich, Mansour & Associates, Inc.
Mr. Handyman of Central Mass
My Little Buddy's Boat
NAPPA Electrical Contractors
National DCP, LLC
New England Dental Group
New England Wireless Association
NEXT for AUTISM
Novartis
Outdoor Perspective
Outshine Properties
Point32Health
Premise Health
Principal Financial Group
Priority Fire and Security, Inc.
Proficio Capital Partners
PSL Donuts
RA Ventures Hospitality Group
Reliant Medical Group
Revive Health
RK Centers
Rockland Trust Investment Management Group
Rotary Club of Southborough
Saxon Partners, LLC
Shawnlee Construction, LLC
Simmons University
StonehamBank
SVN Parsons Commercial Group
Taylor Donuts, Inc.
Taylor Freezer of New England, Inc.
The Eagle Leasing Company
The Hollister Group, Inc.
The VIYU Foundation
Thurston Foods
Tiffany & Co.
TM Capital Corp.
UnitedHealth Group
Vanasse & Associates
Verbale LLC



CONSULTING IMPACT

67 Model classrooms across New England

365 Students enrolled in partner and cooperative classrooms

466 Students NECC consults to in the U.S.

44 Students NECC consults to in the Gulf Cooperative Council

38 Students across GCC Clinics

NECC OPENS ALLIED HEALTH CLINIC IN DUBAI

In April, NECC opened the Allied Health Clinic in Dubai. Located in Dubai Healthcare City, the Allied Health Clinic is a pediatric specialty clinic that provides one-on-one or group occupational therapy (OT) and speech and language therapy (SpL) across a variety of diagnoses and severity levels. The Allied Health Clinic functions as an outpatient therapy center providing specific, direct services to clients of all ages and disabilities and disorders in 30 to 60 minute sessions, versus the comprehensive treatment plans developed for children with autism that are provided at NECC's other clinics.

"Our vision is to continue to expand services throughout the Middle East region" shared Kristin Buchanan, MEd, BCBA, executive director of Gulf Consulting at NECC. "The opening of the Allied Health Clinic is just another step toward providing much-needed services to individuals of determination in these communities."



UAE CELEBRATES RELATIONSHIP WITH NECC

Pam Olsen, PhD, BCBA, executive director of the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education operated by the New England Center for Children (MRC-NECC), was included in the UAE Embassy's *50 Years/50 Faces* feature, which celebrated the UAE's 50 years of friendship with the United States. The storytelling campaign profiled Emiratis and Americans who represent the breadth and depth of the UAE's history and relations with the U.S.

The partnership between NECC and the UAE dates to 1997, when NECC began providing private consulting in the region and ten years later established what is now MRC-NECC. According to the article, "today, MRC-NECC plays an important role in autism awareness and education in the region and represents the culmination of a successful knowledge transfer between the UAE and the United States."



NECC Around the Globe

ACE® ABA Software System currently serves **12,453** learners in **32** U.S. states and **9** countries

NECC has onsite programs in **3** countries (United States, Qatar, and the UAE)

240 students enrolled at MRC-NECC in Abu Dhabi

1,268 NECC staff across the globe





5

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEE
RESOURCE GROUPS (ERG)
LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY
2022 TO ENHANCE THE
EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE**



NECC LAUNCHES EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS FOR STAFF

As part of its commitment to creating an experience of belonging for all staff, NECC has established several Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) to provide a dedicated safe space of support, community, and learning for employees.

The five ERGs — Black & Brown, International Staff, Pride Alliance, Wellness, and Working Caregivers — were formed after they were identified by staff via a survey as areas in which they would appreciate unique support. ERGs are a pipeline for employee feedback as a way to improve the work-life balance at NECC. Each ERG is led by staff volunteers who act as liaisons between the group and the director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), facilitate discussions, and work with an executive sponsor to foster collaboration between employees and the organization.

“The groups are voluntary, based on similar life experiences, identities, or challenges in the workplace,” said Fatou Njie-Jallow, director of DEI. “The benefits are belonging, inclusion, support, engagement, and a safe space to learn and practice allyship. The groups align their purpose and objectives to the organization’s larger diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy.”

NECC AND SIMMONS CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

As part of its commitment to training and developing the next generation of autism educators and researchers, NECC has been offering free on-site graduate programs through its partnerships with nationally accredited universities. The fall of 2022 marked the 30th year in which Simmons University welcomed NECC staff to its master's degree programs.

Since 1992, NECC and Simmons have collaborated to offer graduate training to NECC employees on-site at NECC in Southborough. The programs provide staff with practical training and experience, enabling them to have a wide variety of job offers in both public schools and private agencies upon completion of the program.

"We have a 100 percent placement rate with our graduates securing jobs either at NECC or with an outside organization," said Chris Evans, professor of practice and the graduate program director for Simmons University at NECC. "The Simmons partnership with NECC is truly a tremendous opportunity for NECC employees to receive a \$50,000 degree at no cost. It not only furthers their professional and academic experience but ensures they disseminate their knowledge when serving students with autism, whether it be locally or globally."

Over the years, the Simmons program has graduated more than 1,200 NECC staff from the programs.

A HUB FOR EDUCATION

1,785 Onsite degrees conferred

195 Employees with BCBA's

322 Articles published (cumulative)

2,596 Research presentations (cumulative)

21 Countries presented in (cumulative)



Thank You

TO THE MANY SUPPORTERS OF NECC WHO ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT TO OUR INSPIRATIONAL STUDENTS.



The New England Center
for Children®
Autism Education and Research

ACE®
ABA Software System

ABAplus®
Online learning from
The New England Center for Children®