

April 18, 1974

William F. Bergen, D.O.
Secretary, New England Foundation
for Osteopathic Medicine
24 Portland Road
Kennebunk, Maine 04043

Dear Dr. Bergen:

Thank you for your letter of March 30, 1974 concerning your efforts to create an osteopathic medical college in New England.

During recent years, Northeastern University has developed many programs in the health field in response to community needs and the availability of funds to meet these needs. Northeastern now has colleges of nursing and pharmacy and allied health professions and also offers programs in physical therapy, medical laboratory science, respiratory therapy, medical records, speech and hearing, dental hygiene, x-ray technology, and rehabilitation administration. On the basis of full financial support from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the University has a "physicians' assistant" program.

Unfortunately the University is not endowed with the financial resources which would be needed for a complete set of offerings in the health field, including a medical college. Creation of the existing health programs at the University was possible only because the University was able to work with governmental or other organizations to obtain the funds needed for them.

In the last decade, representatives of Northeastern have had conversations about the possibility of programs in osteopathic medicine, podiatry, and optometry. Failure to identify sufficient financial resources has prevented these conversations from continuing, but they might be revived if there should be a change in the financial climate. In the present era of tight university budgets, any new programs would have to be self supporting; new offerings can not be financed by reducing the support for existing programs.

Under appropriate circumstances, the university might become affiliated with a medical college operated by an independent organization, providing some of the teaching of science needed by the medical college. For example, Northeastern

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is now affiliated with the Forsyth Dental Center. Students in dental hygiene take their academic work at Northeastern and their clinical work at the Dental Center.

The Vice-President for Planning at Northeastern, Dr. Loring M. Thompson, has participated in previous conversations about the possibilities of medical education, and he will be glad to continue to communicate with you and your organization about this possibility.

Sincerely yours,

Asa S. Knowles
President