*Vice President/President-Elect Candidate*

**Name:** Erica Donnis

**Education:** Master’s Degree, Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, affiliated with the University of Delaware. Completion of Society of American Archivists’ *Digital Archives Specialist* certificate program, 2019.

**Employment (Relevant to Archives):** I have more than twenty years of experience working as an employee of and consultant to collecting organizations in Vermont, Massachusetts, and beyond. I currently serve as a Special Collections Director at Champlain College and consult with archives, museums, libraries, and historical societies on collections care, exhibitions, and curatorial projects.

**Service to New England Archivists**: I have presented at two recent conference sessions and look forward to deepening my involvement with NEA.

**Service to Archives Profession:** I am a founding member and board secretary of Collections Care & Conservation Alliance, collectionscarealliance.org, a network of professionals working to support the care and conservation of our region’s cultural heritage resources.

**Candidate Question: "What do you consider to be one of the greatest challenges archivists in New England are facing at present, and what are potential paths NEA can take to address this issue?"**

The COVID-19 pandemic has completely upended almost every aspect of our lives, personal and professional. Like many of you, I have been grappling with reinventing almost every aspect of my job, including patron access, reference and instruction, staff and intern supervision, collections care, acquisitions and processing, and community engagement in socially distant world. Our challenges are myriad. Those of us who are lucky enough to remain employed in the field face budget cuts and job uncertainty, not to mention difficulty completing our day to day work. Individually and collectively, we have all been deeply impacted by COVID-19. The experience of this pandemic demonstrates the vital importance of an organization like New England Archivists. Now more than ever, we need NEA: to support us as individuals and professionals and as a field, to bring us together, and to advocate on our behalf. One major opportunity I see for NEA is to make virtual programming a cornerstone of its activities going forward, thereby reaching a broader segment of the archives community and reducing financial and logistical barriers to professional development and networking