

FAST-GROWING INITIATIVE EXCEEDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND PREPS SENIORS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

Concord – It started as a simple plan to encourage students to reach beyond the minimum graduation requirements and take more challenging courses. The concept: Tougher classes build better skills and boost chances for gaining acceptance into college and better careers. In 2007, 72 students joined the **New Hampshire Scholars Initiative**. This month, over **1,400 high school seniors** in New Hampshire will accept their diplomas having completed the Scholars program.

“The numbers speak for themselves,” explains Scott Power, Director of the NH Scholars Initiative. “Since we began this initiative, we’ve seen a spike in enrollment in high school chemistry classes, physics and foreign language.” The NH Scholars Initiative urges students in all 30 participating communities to be aggressive with their course schedules. Four years of English, at least 3 years of math and lab-based science, three and a half years of social science and two years of foreign language.”

Unquestionably, increasing academic rigor at the high school level is at the forefront of just about every conversation around education reform today. And it is certainly a commonly heard concern from local school boards, parents, businesses and - yes - sometimes even students themselves!

There is widespread concern that our New Hampshire high school students graduating from high school are not being adequately challenged, and are not equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in either postsecondary education or in the workplace. This does not apply to the students receiving NH Scholars medallions tonight.

Increasing student learning expectations is one of the most effective ways to ensure a student’s future success...and by challenging students to take a more rigorous academic program we are helping to better equip them with the tools they need to succeed both in college and in work.

The State Scholars Program – working collaboratively with the New Hampshire College and University Council and thirty school districts – is focused on the need to significantly raise expectations for all students by encouraging academic rigor.

New Hampshire colleges are pleased to congratulate 1,415 seniors for completing the NH Scholars Core Course of Study this year.

2010 NH Scholars Recognition Event Schedule

High School	Representing College	Date	Time	# of Scholars
Alvirne (Hudson)	Rivier College	20-May	6:30pm (gym)	37
Belmont	Lakes Region CC	9-Jun	6pm	41
Berlin	White Mountains CC	7-Jun	6pm	41
Bow	Colby Sawyer College	8-Jun	7pm	117
Campbell (Litchfield)	Mass College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	10-Jun	7pm	24
Fall Mountain Regional	Keene State College	3-Jun	7pm	54
Franklin	Granite State College	11-Jun	6pm	14

Gilford	None requested	10-Jun	6pm	34
Hillsboro-Deering	Franklin Pierce Univ.	3-Jun	6pm	23
Kingswood Regional	Great Bay Comm College	13-May	7pm	28
Laconia	Lakes Region CC	7-Jun	6:30pm	29
Lin-Wood	Plymouth State	3-Jun	Breakfast 8:30am	23
Manchester Central	None requested	1-Jun	morn	53
Manchester Memorial	Manchester Comm College	10-Jun	8am	20
Manchester West	Saint Anselm College	10-Jun	8am (gym)	43
Merrimack	Rivier College	7-Jun	6pm	91
Nashua North	Saint Anselm College	16-Jun	5:30pm	166
Nashua South	UNH - Durham	16-Jun	daytime TBA	167
Newfound Regional	Plymouth State	4-Jun	6pm	20
Newmarket	University of NH	10-Jun	7pm	28
Newport	River Valley Comm College	7-Jun	7pm	20
Oyster River (Durham)	University of NH	17-Jun	6:30pm	92
Pelham	Southern NH University	24-May	5pm (Harris Inn)	39
Sanborn Regional	UNH - Durham	3-Jun	7pm	62
Spaulding	NH Technical Institute	10-Jun	6:30pm	52
Stevens (Claremont)	River Valley Comm College	9-Jun	12pm (SRVRTC)	37
VLACS	NH Technical Institute	18-Jun	4pm (McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord)	4
White Mountains Reg	White Mountains CC	10-Jun	6:30pm	14
Wilton-Lyndeborough	Keene State College	3-Jun	6:30pm	12
Winnisquam Regional	PSU & Business Partners	7-Jun	6pm (food social before 7pm event)	30

Total Scholars 1415