



NH Scholars Scoop

College Access Project

The New Hampshire College & University Council and Campus Compact for New Hampshire have embarked on a collaborative project to assist underserved populations. To accomplish these goals a College Access Team has been created.

The Access New Hampshire Initiative's mission is to **increase opportunities and pathways to assist underrepresented students in accessing higher education opportunities.**

The Access Team is pursuing a number of diverse strategies to increase student retention rates, improve academic success and ease transitions from K-12 to higher education.

The Access New Hampshire Initiative will provide comprehensive resources to

students and schools throughout the state, including:

- Sponsorship of various access programs
- Hosting mini-college fairs at high schools across New Hampshire
- Develop information on financial aid and scholarship resources
- Collaborate closely with partners including The New Hampshire Scholars Program, AmeriCorps*VISTA programs, and much more!

This initiative will reach underserved populations in all corners of the state including the North Country, Lakes Region, Seacoast, Western corner and the Southern region.



The College Access Initiative is funded by the Jane's Trust Grant.

The goal is to provide all students with the tools to be college and career ready.

New Hampshire Scholars is proud to collaborate on this project.

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Resources on the web in New Hampshire

- www.NHscholars.org
- www.VisitNHcolleges.org
- www.intern2careerNH.org
- www.nhcuc.org
- www.compactNH.org
- www.NHfuture.org
- www.collegeaccess.org
- www.collegereadyne.org
- www.vlacs.org (Virtual HS)
- www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see

Save the date! March 12, 2008
A retreat for all participating and new schools • 9am-12pm • NHCUC in Concord •
Share best practices, learn about i.4.see, and much, much more
Please RSVP to spower@nhcuc.org

NH Scholars Adds Professional Staff

The goal of the New Hampshire College & University Council is to establish state-wide long-term sustainability.

In an effort to provide continued support to the pilot schools and assist new school districts with imple-

mentation, NH Scholars is pleased to welcome Heather Keyworth to the program.

Heather will be working on several projects for NHCUC and Campus Compact for New Hampshire including the *College Access Initiative* and State Scholars.

Heather brings experience from the world of college admissions. She was a recruiter and outreach coordinator at Granite State College for the past four years.

Welcome, Heather.

keyworth@compactnh.org



School Spotlight

Hello Merrimack & Newmarket!



Active Scholars districts. Stay tuned! As many as 2-12 more districts will be added this winter and spring as State Scholar schools.

Interest in New Hampshire Scholars continues to grow. Superintendents and school districts across the state have expressed their desire to bring the program to their schools.

New Hampshire Scholars begins its second phase by adding two more school districts to the initiative. The Merrimack and Newmarket School Districts kick-off the New Year by becoming the first schools in 2008 to newly join as New Hampshire Scholar Districts.

Merrimack Superintendent Marge Chiafery likes the model of the program that is designed to reach students who may not otherwise take a rigorous course load.

"It's designed to get more kids thinking the sky's the limit and if they apply themselves, more opportunities will open up to them," she said.

Merrimack and Newmarket become the first districts in their region to participate. But with extensive business

activity in these areas, other schools will be quick to act on this opportunity.

Bill Cummings, Chairman of the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, says he believes that businesses will enthusiastically support the program.

"From where I stand, a lot of kids just seem to take the minimum amount and just skate by. I think this is going to make them think twice about that," he said.

Welcome aboard!

This is a reminder that your next State Scholars Initiative submissions are due February 22nd.

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Data Collection—Pilot Schools

The next round of data is for the Fall 2007-08 school year and will include two files. Submission Course should be uploaded first and corrected for errors before uploading Student Class.

Please upload to i4see at <http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/datacollection/i4see.htm> Click on the ESS Workbench and follow the

steps to login and upload your data.

The 1st File includes the courses which are available at your school and will be entered by submitting the **Submission Course file**.

The 2nd file is the **Student Class file** listing all of the students (grades 9-12) and the courses they took,

including grades received.

Please remember that the school year will be 2008 when submitting your data. This file no longer asks for the Course ID, but instead asks for the Local Class Code.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this. Please contact us with questions.



A new incentive for becoming a teacher, the TEACH Grant provides awards up to \$4,000 per year. Certain eligibility requirements apply. Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov for more info.

Financial Aid

NH Scholar graduates may see additional scholarship opportunities. Students who complete a rigorous core course of study such as State Scholars, may qualify for the Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant.

High school seniors should visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply online.

Locally, several business partners now provide scholarship monies for New Hampshire Scholar graduates.

Other scholarship resources:

- NH Charitable Foundation—State's largest source of student aid www.nhcf.org Deadline: April 18, 2008

- QuestBridge College Prep Scholarship www.questbridge.org Deadline: March 31, 2008
- www.FastWeb.com Nation's largest scholarship search engine
- www.NH93.com Local scholarship listings
- www.nh.gov/postsecondary NH's state grant program



Business Partners

Without support from the business community, this program purely encourages course rigor. But with excitement and support from local business leaders, State Scholars provides opportunities for students that normally would not be available to them.

New Hampshire Scholars would like to thank all of our active business leaders. Schools are encouraged to continue to build these relationships.

Numerous polls suggest that stakeholders increasingly believe U.S. schools should do more to prepare students to succeed in today's rapidly evolving world by teaching so-called "21st-century skills," such as global literacy, problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and creativity.

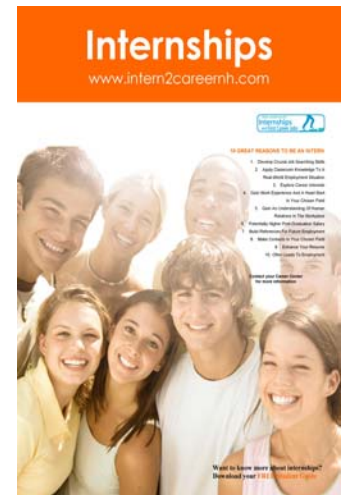
To help schools implement such 21st-century teaching and learning practices, New Hampshire Scholars encourages districts to call on local business leaders to assist in

these efforts.

Gary Steinbach from Winnisquam Regional High School says "We encourage the community to get involved at whatever level they are comfortable with. For our students, hearing it from local business professionals really hits home."

Check out the new online resource called *Route 21*, a one-stop shop for related tools and information

www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21



We offer this free resource to all of our business partners. Post internships and jobs here for **free**. Over 70,000 high school and college students access it. www.intern2careerNH.org

School Implementation

Constant reinforcement of the State Scholars message is essential to making this program a success for our students. A good way to do this is by supplementing NH Scholars with additional workshops.

Please consider these free outside resources in addition to your local business partners.

NH Scholars can help schedule these programs or please schedule them directly.

- *Career Training Concepts* Offers a wide range of workshops including interviewing & resume building. www.careertrain.com and youcanschoolprogram.com
- *Monster's Making it Count* Offers programs for every grade level in high school including college prep, careers, financial aid & financial literacy. Learn more at www.makingitcount.com
- Five of the six pilot schools use programs by the *Center for College Planning* at NHHEAF. They offer daytime and evening programs for grades 8-12. www.NHcollegeclub.org and nhheaf.org/about_ccp.asp

Students require constant reinforcement and instant gratification. Supplemental activities by business partners or outreach services are essential.

Exploring Colleges in New Hampshire

As high school students search for the college that is the "right fit," the question remains—how does a student choose from over 6,000 colleges and universities across the country?

First, students must begin to think about what type of college they want to attend. Size of the school, location, campus setting and potential fields of study are ways to narrow the list of colleges. Once the student can

pinpoint a few of these criteria, he/she can utilize one of many online college search engines that will match their interests to that of a handful of schools.

- www.collegeboard.com
- www.petersons.com
- www.collegeview.com

Secondly, do not dismiss the schools in our own backyard. Students perception of the "perfect" school sometimes

means warm weather and far away from home (aka Miami, California or Texas). But in the end, students realize that some of the best institutions in New England are right here. The "right fit" for many students begins and ends in the Granite State. Get an inside look at New Hampshire's colleges and universities at:

www.VisitNHcolleges.org



17 member institutions of the NH College & University Council are highlighted here.



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College Ready, Work Ready, Ready for Life.



New Hampshire Scholars is part of the State Scholars Initiative, a national program that uses business leaders to motivate students, beginning in Grade 8, to complete a rigorous course of study in high school—one that will give them a boost in college and careers. New Hampshire Scholars encourages and motivates **ALL** high school students to complete a rigorous course of study that prepares them for college and careers.



This is a Federal grant-funded program developed and administered through a partnership between the New Hampshire College and University Council, the New Hampshire Forum on the Future, the New Hampshire Department of Education and the National State Scholars Initiative Network.

Visit www.NHscholars.org for more information.
Click on the "Resources" tab for archived newsletters.

National State Scholars Issues DVD

The State Scholars Initiative has issued an informational video to all participating states. Copies of the "Do the Math" DVD are available and will be mailed to each of the participating districts in New Hampshire.

The 17-minute video provides interviews with a wide range of professionals: a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, a TV sports reporter, an MIT robot-inventor, a fashion designer, an award-winning composer, a Princeton sociologist (the first in her family to go to college) and much more.

The business leaders were asked to tell students in

real-life terms why a rigorous course of study that includes math, science, social studies, English, and foreign language is so important today and critical to their work.

In addition, high school students in several SSI states were asked to reflect on their dreams for the future and how a rigorous course of study like State Scholars could help them achieve those dreams.

The DVD is a nice complement to include in a program or activity for New Hampshire Scholars. It is a worthwhile look at the importance of challenging

coursework.

Newmarket Junior High School utilized it as part of their 8th grade "kick-off" event and students reacted favorably to it.

DVDs will be mailed to schools shortly. The streaming video can also be viewed online at <http://www.wiche.edu/statescholars/dvd/#>

"The idea of hard fun ... things can be hard and can still be really fun, because when you solve them, they can be that much more rewarding."
*Dr. Cynthia Breazeal
Robot Designer & Professor
MIT Media Lab*



"Do the Math" DVD highlights the importance of a rigorous course schedule. DVDs will be mailed to schools soon.