

For Immediate release
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Contact: Scott Power
603-225-4199 x300

HUNDREDS OF “NH SCHOLARS” TO BE HONORED AT STATE HOUSE ON NH SCHOLARS DAY

*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. More than 900 of those graduates will join principals, teachers and administrators on the State House lawn to be honored by Governor John Lynch and Education Commissioner Virginia Barry.

“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, 3 years of math and lab-based science, three and a half years of social science and two years of foreign language.”

Graduation rates in these towns have increased and more students are going to college. The goal for the 2011 initiative is to have 40 towns participating. “Our scholars understand that by taking tough courses and mastering them, they boost

their chances of getting into a good college finding success in their professional lives,” says Power.

“These students have worked incredibly hard for all four years. They are our future. They deserve a special recognition and we are glad to provide that for them.”

WHAT: NH SCHOLARS CEREMONY

WHEN: MAY 25TH – 11:00 AM

WHO: NH SCHOLARS, PRINCIPALS, SUPERINTENDENTS

WHERE: NH STATE HOUSE LAWN

The program will feature a few outstanding students and graduates of the NH Scholars Initiative. Later this spring, all 1,415 Scholars will receive awards and medallions marking the achievement. Several representatives of New Hampshire’s colleges and universities will be on hand to greet the incoming college freshman class of 2010. The founding organization for State Scholars is the NH College & University Council (NHCUC), a consortium of 17 public and private colleges and universities in the state of New Hampshire. “We are incredibly proud of the effort and dedication of these young people,” says Tom Horgan, President and CEO of NHCUC. “Today’s graduates are tomorrow’s skilled workforce. I believe we are in very good hands.”