

# NH Scholars Scoop

## Become a NH Scholars Champion

Our enhanced web site enables business volunteers to become "Champions." It offers a searchable database for schools to locate potential business speakers and it features a Calendar of Events for schools to post events.

A **Champion** is a business or community leader who invests time and expertise to help raise educational attainment in our schools.

The New Hampshire Scholars program is actively recruiting business leaders to make presentations in classrooms,

helping students make the connection between paths they choose in high school and their future potential. Participating as a presenter is a fun way to engage students to take on greater challenges.

### Education is now a community undertaking.

When today's students hear from local business volunteers about the importance of challenging themselves with a rigorous curriculum and working towards high level 21st century skills...they listen.

We encourage both schools and community leaders to strengthen business/ education partnerships by reaching out to each other.

<http://www.nhscholars.org/>  
[NHscholarsChampions.cfm](http://www.nhscholars.org/NHscholarsChampions.cfm)

### Business volunteers:

Please visit the link above to complete a brief form to become a Champion today.

*Thank you for your help!*

We encourage schools to begin posting potential speaking events on the calendar so Champions can view speaking opportunities.

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*Classroom Presentations for Grades 7-12*

*School Business Advisory Teams, Job Shadowing, Company Tours, Internship Opps*

*Sign up officially today! Click here.*

## Course Enrollment in Core is Up

The State Scholars Initiative continues to build momentum in New Hampshire.

The immediate impact is seen in course enrollments. Data from four pilot schools show increases that are significant within a two year period. Beginning in fall 2006 through the spring of 2008, the percentage increase of student enrollment in the core course of study indicate that students are accepting the challenge.

### Example

**Subject:** (percent increase)  
% of enrolled students in fall '06 to % in spring '08

**English:** (+35%)  
52% to 87%  
~ block scheduling at some schools may impact English data

**Algebra I:** (+12%)  
14% to 26%

**Geometry:** (+19%)  
7% to 26%

**Algebra II:** (+8%)  
7% to 15%

**Biology:** (+11%)  
16% to 27%

**Chemistry:** (+5%)  
10% to 15%

**Physics:** (+4.5%)  
3% to 7.5%

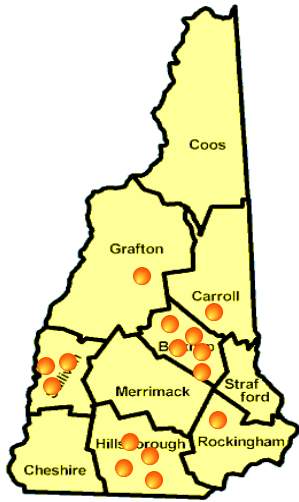
**Social Studies:** (+38%)  
41% to 79%

**Foreign Language:** (+12%)  
34% to 46%

Moving forward, we will continue data collection with all active schools via the Department's *i.4.see* system.

## Resources on the web in New Hampshire

- [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org)
- [www.VisitNHcolleges.org](http://www.VisitNHcolleges.org)
- [www.nhcuc.org](http://www.nhcuc.org)
- [www.compactNH.org](http://www.compactNH.org)
- [www.internsnh.com](http://www.internsnh.com)
- [www.NHfuture.org](http://www.NHfuture.org)
- [www.careertrain.com](http://www.careertrain.com)
- [www.nhheaf.org](http://www.nhheaf.org)
- [www.makingitcount.com/educators](http://www.makingitcount.com/educators)
- [www.vlacs.org](http://www.vlacs.org) (Virtual HS)
- [www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see](http://www.ed.state.nh.us/i4see)



There are 15 active Scholars districts. The program began in 2007 with six pilot schools.

## Nashua & Manchester Join Network

Two of the largest school districts in the state of New Hampshire have joined the State Scholars Initiative.

Both Nashua, SAU 42 and Manchester, SAU 37 are now New Hampshire Scholars districts.

Schools in Nashua educate over 12,500 students, while Manchester schools serve over 17,250.

Nashua High School North and South, as well as Manchester Central, Memorial, West and the School of Technology are all partici-

pating high schools.

New Hampshire Scholars is proud to now serve 15 school districts and 19 high schools throughout the Granite State.

### It's not too late to join this academic year.

We encourage other school districts interested in becoming a New Hampshire Scholars district to contact the director, Scott Power at [spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org).

By joining the State Scholars Initiative this spring, you will be able to introduce the

program to current 8th graders prior to entering 9th grade. It will also provide us an opportunity to connect with students in grades 9-11 in preparation for next fall. And lastly, the summer is a terrific time to build business partnerships by engaging local Rotary Clubs and Chambers of Commerce.

The NH College & University Council welcomes the school districts in Nashua and Manchester.

## UMI Sets Scholarship for NH Scholars

Enrollment is only \$25 for students for the Summer 2009 term



Universal Media Institute (UMI) has launched the World Leaders in Education Program (WLEP) for high school students. In addition, there has been a scholarship established for the students of the New Hampshire Scholars program.

UMI is a unique NH State licensed professional school, where all the programs/courses are designed and taught by existing industry professionals, in topics that

are of the most cutting edge in nature.

In essence, UMI is the actual industry which is conducting the training, the ultimate form of business and academic "partnership."

This is a three-month long aggressive program which offers most cutting edge disciplines, i.e. nanotechnology (systems of the size of nanometers that will bring about

the next economic revolution) and on-demand computing (how to enable information technology to manage itself).

This program simulates the real world corporate environment where students will learn and deliver a project simultaneously.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.uminstitute.com/wlep>

## Senior Recognition Events

Last year 145 seniors graduated as New Hampshire Scholars from 9 high schools.



In June, New Hampshire Scholars will receive the honor of wearing the prestigious gold medallion at their graduation ceremony.

High school coordinators should forward the names of their seniors who have completed the NH Scholars curriculum to:

[spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org) or [keyworth@nhcuc.org](mailto:keyworth@nhcuc.org)

Students will be recognized at either their Senior Award Night or a special NH Scholars ceremony at their school.

This year, college admission representatives will partner with NH Scholars at various recognition events. This

provides all schools the opportunity to include a NH Scholars representative or college official when recognizing their students.

Business partners are encouraged to contact their local school if they would like to participate in the event as well.



## Create a "College-Going Culture" in Your School! *Here's How*

For years, we have been telling students that everyone needs post-secondary training in order to compete in the marketplace. Yet, too many drop out of high school or do not continue after high school graduation - never taking advantage of the education and training opportunities they need to become truly prepared for the work-world. A good way to encourage students to complete post-secondary training is by creating a "college-going" culture in your school.

According to CollegeEd, "a college-going culture is an environment that builds the expectation of post-secondary

education for all students - not just the best students. It inspires the best in every student."

The first step to creating a college-going expectation is to define "college." By college we mean education after high school. This includes 2-year community or junior colleges, business schools and vocational technical schools as well as 4-year colleges and universities.

The "college-going" culture can begin with students as early as the first grade. Instead of calling students first graders, call them the Class of 2021. This will give students

an expectation of graduating from high school, on time, with their class.

The second step is to help students learn the differences in the types of colleges. Suggested class projects include:

- Identify all colleges in a 100 mile radius of your school
- For each college, research:  
 (1) Cost to attend, Housing options (2) Entrance requirements (3) Percentage accepted (4) Types of degrees offered (5) Financial aid options (6) SAT and ACT differences (7) List 50 careers— which colleges in your 100 mile radius offer preparation for these careers?

The third step is to help students feel more comfortable with the college application process. Homework assignments could include:

- Complete a sample college application
- Compose a college application essay
- Provide sample SAT/ACT questions to self-test

Fourth, celebrate the successes of your former students who are attending college. Invite them to return as guest speakers and tell your class about their college experiences.

*Source: Career Training Concepts*



**Your success. Your Future.**



You know what you want to get out of life.  
 So how are you going to get there?  
 The answer is New Hampshire Scholars.

## Got College?

[www.visitNHcolleges.org](http://www.visitNHcolleges.org)



## Career Counselor Creates Interactive DVD

Susan Posluszny, a career counselor who served for 18 years as the Director of the Career Center at Rivier College, recently completed development of an interactive DVD program designed to support teens and young adults with choosing a college major.

Along with sale of the DVD, entitled *In Search of a College Major & Career Direction*,

Susan is currently inviting local schools and colleges to participate in a pilot study of her program for institutional site licensing. To support program delivery, she's also offering train-the-trainer sessions for counselors and other professionals who work with students.

Career professionals and counselors can watch a free on-line preview of the DVD by

registering at the following link: <http://www.careeroptions4me.com/careerdemo/> The general public can preview and purchase the DVD through the 'Store' link at her website, [www.careeroptions4me.com](http://www.careeroptions4me.com)

For questions about her program, contact by phone at 603-487-2952 or e-mail [susan@careeroptions4me.com](mailto:susan@careeroptions4me.com)



NH Scholars encourages all of its schools to supplement their support with outreach opportunities.



## State Scholars Initiative

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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 brings business leaders into the classroom 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 career.



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

Visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for more information.

Click on the "Resources" tab for archived newsletters.

# How prepared are students for entering the work-world?

In a 2006 survey, 431 employers evaluated young workers (those entering the workforce as recent high school, two-year college, technical school, or four-year college graduates) regarding their readiness for the work-world.

**Employers have certain expectations regarding basic academic skills for young workers to be able to perform their jobs**, and rightly so. However, 72% said students entering the workforce following high school graduation lack the English writing skills necessary for memos, letters, and reports. Graduates of both 2-year and 4-year college were also judged as sub-par in these skills.

**Employers expect new hires to exhibit basic work skills.** Yet, only 30% said high school graduates demonstrate adequate critical thinking skills, personal accountability, punctuality, and time/workload management skills.

**Employers expect employees to make wise personal lifestyle choices.** More than 76% reported an increasing concern about their employees' lifestyle choices regarding health and wellness, specifically nutrition, exercise, and stress reduction. These factors can impact work-life effectiveness. Even though employers judged entry-level workers as deficient in both academic and workplace skills, the news was not all gloomy. Respondents reported that high school and college graduates were adequately prepared for the workplace when it came to information technology, teamwork, and diversity. However, few were reported as excellently prepared for entry level jobs.

**Encourage students to complete post-secondary education/training.** As competition gets tighter in the U.S. job market, surveyed employers anticipate hiring fewer people with only a high school diploma.

**Educate for excellence in English writ-**

**ing and speaking skills.** Nearly every type of teacher can help students become more effective in written and spoken communication. Homework assignments and exams should include opportunities for students to hone their skills. Spelling, grammar, structure, logic, and content are invaluable!

**Engage students' thinking abilities.** Help students think "outside the box" by teaching critical thinking skills. Reward students for creativity and innovation.

**Enlist the help of local businesses.** Since businesses are the biggest stakeholders for the preparation of students for the work-world, create partnerships to solve this complex problem together. Invite local businesses to provide mentoring, internships, job shadowing programs, and part-time/summer job opportunities.

*Source: Are They Really Ready to Work? Employer's Perspectives on the Basic Knowledge and Applied Skills of New Entrants to the 21st Century U.S. Workforce.*