

# NH Scholars Scoop

## Businesses and educators agree; It's all about education

With over 200 business and community leaders, K-12 administrators, and Higher Ed representatives in the same room, it was clear that New Hampshire is not lacking the desire to strengthen business and education partnerships.

On November 18th, speakers from all three stakeholder groups urged attendees to get involved in the development of today's students. Trish Regan,

CNBC business reporter and New Hampshire native said that "we have to invest in our young people; we have to invest in education."

There are many opportunities for businesses to impact the growth of our students including speaking in classrooms, mentoring, job-site tours and internships.

While math, science and the humanities remain some of the essential

concepts, it is critical for students to learn 21st century skills such as critical thinking and problem solving. As Tom Raffio, CEO of Northeast Delta Dental, points out, "employees today must be able to work in teams, lead groups and communicate effectively."

Visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for more information regarding the breakfast event, as well as all of the handouts and materials.



Trish Regan, CNBC



Tom Raffio, NE Delta Dental

## Accept the Challenge

### Here is what we know:

K-12 schools are traditionally responsible for shaping today's students.

The business community is eager to assist in schools.

Colleges and universities find themselves teaching unprepared students as well as the well-prepared.

We will continue efforts to align New Hampshire Schol-

ars with admission requirements and workforce trends.

We are constantly urging students to accept the challenge of a more rigorous course of study.

### Now it's your turn.

Educators in K-12 must reach out to the business community thus inviting them into the school.

That said, interested busi-

ness leaders mustn't wait for invitations; call a local school today.

Visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for contact information of attendees from 11/18 event.

**Coming soon** - a statewide list of school contacts and interested business leaders!

**Education is now a community undertaking on many different levels.**

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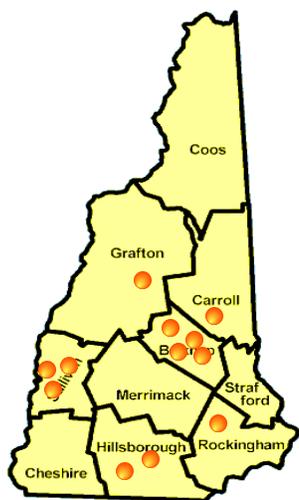
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### Resources on the web in New Hampshire

- [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org)
- [www.VisitNHcolleges.org](http://www.VisitNHcolleges.org)
- [www.internsnh.com](http://www.internsnh.com)
- [www.nhcuc.org](http://www.nhcuc.org)
- [www.compactNH.org](http://www.compactNH.org)
- [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 12 active Scholars districts. The program began in 2007 with six pilot schools.

# Welcome Lin-Wood School District

The Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District, SAU # 68, becomes the first district in the North Country to join New Hampshire Scholars.

Lin-Wood joins eleven other active districts including:

- Claremont
- Fall Mountain
- Franklin
- Gilford
- Governor Wentworth (Kingswood)
- Litchfield
- Merrimack
- Newmarket

- Newport
- Shaker Regional (Belmont)
- Winnisquam

### More schools to join soon!

Please contact Scott Power at (603) 225-4199 x300 or [spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org) to schedule a planning meeting at your school. Remember, participating in State Scholars is free. Check out some of the advantages:

- ◆ Seamless integration into guidance, school-to-career and advisories

- ◆ Opportunity to evaluate academic curriculum and course offerings
- ◆ Develop business and community support to reinforce the message
- ◆ Enhance course selection planning
- ◆ Increase financial aid potential for students
- ◆ Increase expectations
- ◆ Recognition for students
- ◆ Heighten public perception with positive PR

# What is meant by “flexible rules?”



Panel at November 18 event

It's easier than ever for students to intern during school hours. Now, they just need to seek out opportunities.

Years ago, New Hampshire students wishing to participate in internships were restricted to after-school hours. For businesses, this wasn't very helpful.

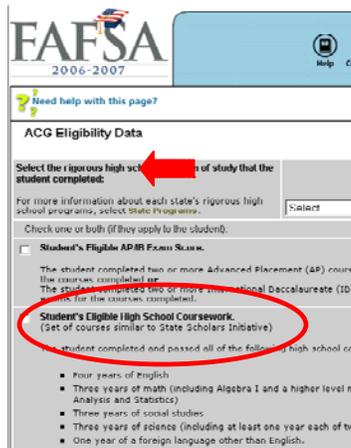
Now, New Hampshire's high school courses are measured by the mastery of course competencies...

...in other words, this allows students the use of in-school and out-of-school activities as a learning tool.

For example, if a student is interested in finance, he/she may explore internships at local banking institutions during school hours.

It's important for students to engage in this type of learning opportunity not only to see first-hand what a particular career field entails, but also to discover areas they don't like.

There is no substitute for experiential learning.



# State Scholars may get more Financial Aid

The high school transcript remains the most important piece of a college application. Furthermore, an impressive high school record showing successful completion of rigorous coursework is the first step to earning scholarship dollars.

In addition to institution aid and local scholarship monies, New Hampshire Scholars' graduates have another opportunity for free money.

The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) offers aid to students qualifying for need and have completed the State Scholars curriculum.

In 2006 only 26% of eligible NH seniors received the ACG because (1) they didn't complete a rigorous course of study or (2) the college could not accurately determine if they did so. Now, with the "State Scholar" indication appearing on a student's transcript, there is no confusion.

In 2007, the number of students qualifying for the ACG doubled from 1,195 to 2,258.

Students will be prompted on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) to indicate their successful completion of the program. \$750 for freshman; \$1300 for sophomores.

Visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)



## Middle Schools to Provide Kick-off Events

Did you know that 70% of recent high school graduates surveyed said they would have taken more challenging classes if they were asked to do so?

As a society it's natural to only give what is expected of us. At times, we choose not to have high expectations for fear of failure.

This just in: today's students are willing to accept challenges we never dreamed asking of them. Today's students are able to achieve high levels.

Litchfield superintendent, Dr. Elaine Cutler, says "if we expect more, we'll get more."

But changing the culture and expectations of a student body does not happen overnight. That is why it is so important to plant the seed as early as middle school (if not earlier).

All New Hampshire Scholars' middle schools will hold kick-off presentations to their 8th grade class prior to high school course selection.

Kick-off events are most successful in the form of formal classroom or assembly-style PowerPoint presentations given by business partners. Guidance or school-to-career coordinators are encouraged to participate as well.

"Increasing student learning expectations is one of the most effective ways I know of to ensure a student's future success," says Dr. Mark Huddleston, President of the University of New Hampshire.

### New Hampshire Scholars can help with the kick-off

- Customizable PowerPoint presentation
- Sample press releases
- Connection with potential business leader to speak
- Handouts for students



*Dr. Mark Huddleston,  
President,  
University of  
New Hampshire*

## Ongoing Reinforcement Activities

The notion of earning additional scholarship dollars or attaining skills necessary for college or career, usually doesn't stay in the forefront of an eighth grader's mind. *We're just being honest.*

But the message begins to resonate with students when they hear a consistent

message from guidance, business mentors and teachers throughout grades 8-12.

It is important for students to see the relevance of their coursework and learning through a variety of workshops such as career exploration, college planning, job

shadowing events, and so forth.

Schools are encouraged to strengthen their business advisory committees and schedule monthly or quarterly activities for students signed on as State Scholars (these exclusive activities also act as incentives to join).

*Panel at November 18 event*



*"We can add to the curriculum by being mentors to students and having students intern at the workplace," says Tom Raffio, CEO of Northeast Delta Dental.*

## Looking Back...How NH Joined State Scholars

In 2002, a company in Texas looked for ways to attract more qualified job applicants. U.S. Congress responded by creating the State Scholars Initiative as a way to compete with the competitive global industry.

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by

[WICHE \(Western Interstate Council for Higher Education\)](#).

Four years later, 25 states have joined including New Hampshire at the end of 2006.

New Hampshire's Department of Education asked the [NH College & University Council](#) (NHCUC) to house

this project. In partnership with [Campus Compact for NH](#) and the [Forum on the Future](#), NHCUC began implementation in six pilot school districts.

Now in twelve districts and still growing, NH Scholars works towards statewide sustainability.

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

### What is NHCUC?

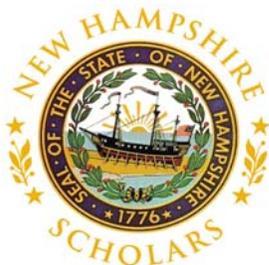
A consortium of the colleges and universities in NH aimed at increasing awareness of higher education. In collaboration with Campus Compact for NH, many initiatives surrounding college access, retention, completion, service learning and civic engagement are offered to K-12, Higher Ed and the business community.



## 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 Can We Get Parents Involved?

## Earlier contact in 8th grade increases student success

Fifty-two percent of all parents say it would be extremely helpful for schools to reach out to parents early (8th/9<sup>th</sup> grade) to ensure they know what their child needs in order to be successful. Many parents in *Civic Enterprises'* focus groups highlighted the complex transition to high school as a major concern.

Today in America, there are approximately 25 million parents who have children in American high schools. Their role in the educational achievement of their children is profound. Students with involved parents, regardless of their family income or background, are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, enroll in higher

level classes, attend school and pass their classes, develop better social skills, graduate from high school, attend college, and find productive work. The opposite is true for students whose parents are less engaged.

Research confirms what common sense suggests: parents are central to the educational success of their children.

Parents are clearly ready to help their children succeed academically, but they need information and tools from the schools to do so—ranging from the importance of rigorous and relevant coursework to how to get into college.

*Source:* A report by Civic Enterprises in association

with Peter D. Hart Research Associates for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (October 2008)

*To change the expectations of students, we need parent awareness. Essentially, parents are re-learning the culture we hope to create. We are in the midst of exponential change. Students of today require different skills than their parents did year's ago. Below are ways to increase awareness of New Hampshire Scholars with parents.*

- Utilize your school's web site to share information
- Include information in school newsletters
- Offer State Scholar parent information nights
- Include State Scholars message during parent-attended events such as incoming-freshman orientation, college planning, financial aid or PTO events
- Host early awareness nights for middle school parents