



NH Scholars Scoop

October 2007

Volume 1

Transition Phase Complete

With a new state director on board at the end of September, efforts began to make up some lost time. Visits to all six of the pilot schools were completed by Scott Power and Debby Connell, the Education Consultant from the NH Department of Education. Dialogue concerning next steps, orienting new 8th grade class and expanding business partnerships were a few of the topics discussed.

Web Site Goes Live

NH Scholars has launched its own web site complete with information for school coordinators, business leaders, educators, students and parents. While general information about the importance of the initiative is available, more program specific resources are accessible also. In the "Toolkits" section, all of the sample handouts, materials, letters, sign up forms, 4-year planner, PowerPoint presentation and evaluation surveys are available. Visit www.NHscholars.org for all of the resources you need.



Goals for Fall & Winter 2007

As we begin our first full academic year this fall, we have the opportunity to continue the efforts you worked so diligently on last spring. A new crop of 8th graders and their parents are anxious to hear about the initiative. Our goal is to provide PowerPoint presentations to this new class prior to course selection. I'd suggest letters describing the program be sent home to parents if you choose to provide a student-only assembly. With a handful of business leaders already trained and ready to go, you can utilize these contacts as possible presenters.

Here are some other things to think about when getting creative about additional workshops:

- Establish job shadowing opportunities
- Develop a "scholars club" or cyber pen-pals
- Facilitate student workshops (i.e. career planning, importance of 4-year plan, goal setting, etc)

- Organizing school activities for students in the program (lunches, dinners, socials, meetings, etc)
- Brainstorm about incentives you might be able to provide throughout the school year. While the medallions are great at graduation, most students need instant gratification and continuous incentives to remain part of something.

Many schools already have established advisory councils who meet monthly or quarterly via their School-to-Career groups. This is a tremendous resource for them to brainstorm about ways to motivate students, mentoring or workshop ideas, and bridging community interest. This group may include a handful of business leaders, a middle school rep, and a couple of reps from the high school and even a principal or SAU official.

Please email me an updated list of all interested business partners with contact info.



Education Commissioner
Lyonel Tracy with NH
Scholar Graduates from
Newport High School
(Terese Rainwater, WICHE
National Director – far right)

School Spotlight

Sharing best practices and ideas amongst ourselves will enable us to provide the best possible programs at our individual school districts. Here are some highlights over the recent months.

***Belmont High School:** With an increased interest in Physics, they have added 2 sections of physics courses. They predict they'll have nearly 40 NH Scholars by the end of this year.*

***Gilford High School:** Kicked off a successful assembly for over 100 8th graders on October 10th. A letter to all of their parents followed and they will soon be meeting individually with every 8th grader to begin the 4-year plan.*

***Kingswood Regional High School:** With their own Kingswood Scholars program already in place, NH Scholars is a perfect addition to their planning development.*

***Newport High School:** Business partnerships continue to grow through their Sugar River Valley Technical Center.*

***Stevens High School:** The Claremont Middle School has developed a tremendous resource with the Upper Valley Business & Education Partnership (UVBEP). Business leaders are available for presentations, mentoring, job shadowing and workshops.*

***Winnisquam Regional High School:** Tremendous support from the business community has been developed through the School-to-Work advisory meetings. Business leaders have begun to coordinate monthly activities for NH Scholars. A pasta dinner was held for parents to help promote school activities and SSI. Business leaders have begun working as mentors and assisting students with their 4-year plan.*

NH Scholars Expansion

With a growing interest from school districts, the NHDOE and NHCUC are looking to add 6 more schools in 2007-2008. The long-term plan is to implement and sustain NH Scholars in all school districts. Meetings with NH college admission directors will take place this fall to promote and inform them of our progress. Our goal is to make the connection between the students' accomplishments and their college applications during the admission process.

What Other Resources Are Available?

I am pleased to work with you in promoting this initiative. Please let me know if you need more State Scholar brochures, posters, or postcards. If you'd prefer having the updated PowerPoint presentation on a CD Rom, I am happy to mail that to you. Cyndy Currier will be following up with you regarding data collection. We have submitted data from 4 schools to WICHE, but would love to start compiling data from all schools for i4see. We are in the process of finalizing the creation of a *PowerSchool* template to make this process easier (thank you Darlene Dodge). Mike Schwartz from NHDOE will fix problems that occurred when submitting data into i4see.

Other resources to consider:

- Virtual High School (www.vlacs.org) – Free Online Courses
- Kuder Online Career Planning System (www.kuder.com) – Call me for access
- Early College Planning Presentations for Parents of K-8 – Call me to schedule

In the News

NH Scholars Initiative Co-Sponsors College Access Convention

Hundreds of underrepresented high school students learn about the importance of rigor

On Friday, October 26th, hundreds of minority high school students from across the state will convene at New England College in Henniker. The convention's goal is to encourage New Hampshire minority students to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams. This Conference offers panel presentations and testimonials from minority students regarding their college experiences, financial aid workshops, networking opportunities, college planning materials, and a college fair, while representatives from higher education around the state explain how minority students can benefit from their services.

NH Scholars Director, Scott Power, will lead workshops to encourage students to take rigorous core courses in high school. He will also describe the impact financial aid, including scholarship opportunities, has on college accessibility. In an effort to continue momentum throughout the State, Mr. Power says "The partnership between *New Hampshire Scholars*, the *Latino Initiative* and the *College Access Convention* is an important one if we are to implement and sustain this program statewide."

For more information, please visit <http://www.nhcuc.org/index.asp?page=latinoconvention> or call 603.224.4199.

New Hampshire Scholars Participates in Annual College Access Convention

Formerly known as the *Latino Convention*, NHCUC invited hundreds of minority students from across the state to the event hosted by New England College. NH Scholars Director, Scott Power led breakout sessions on financial aid and the importance of course rigor.

The convention's goal is to encourage New Hampshire minority students to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams. It included breakout sessions, NH college fair and expert speakers. It is part of a statewide higher education access grant targeting underrepresented student populations and funded by **Jane's Trust**.

Thank you for your efforts during a very exciting academic year as we take the next step to establishing a new culture for students in New Hampshire. Visit www.NHscholars.org for articles and statistics about core courses, physics, math, trends, surveys and much more. Please contact me with any questions:

Scott Power, State Director, spower@nhcuc.org, 225-4199 x300