

For Immediate release
October 1, 2010

Contact: Scott Power
603-225-4199 x300

Bean Foundation Supports State Scholars Program in Manchester

MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOLS TEAM UP WITH AREA COLLEGES TO BETTER PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

Concord – With funding from the Norwin S. & Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation, Manchester area high schools and colleges will work together to send the message that college is possible. Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas will hold a press conference at City Hall on October 19th at 12:30pm to announce this collaborative.

Manchester Schools have joined 32 other school districts as part of the statewide New Hampshire Scholars Initiative. The project connects colleges and business leaders with schools in an effort to better prepare students for college by encouraging them to complete a more rigorous course of study in high school.

“Education is now a community undertaking on many different levels,” says Mayor Ted Gatsas. “We need to provide students with mentors and role models as early as possible to shape their development. The New Hampshire Scholars project in Manchester does just that.”

Manchester School Superintendent Tom Brennan says, “This project will increase access to college planning and college readiness programs for students in the Manchester School District.” This unique higher education partnership engages the three public high schools (Central, Memorial and West) and Manchester-area colleges including Southern NH University, Saint Anselm College, Manchester Community College, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, NH Institute of Art and UNH-Manchester.

“By bringing high schools and colleges together, we establish a teamwork approach to make sure students know they can do whatever they set their minds to. We simply provide a roadmap to that destination,” explains Tom Horgan, President & CEO of the NH College & University Council.

A College Access Convention will kick-off the project on October 15th for hundreds of high school students interested in pursuing higher education. “We’ve brought high school administrators together with the city’s area colleges to give students an inside look at what it takes to successfully apply for and get into college,” explains Scott Power, Director of the NH Scholars Initiative. “This is an unprecedented opportunity for our city’s public school students to see a path to a better future.”

The convention will offer tips on applying for financial aid, as well as guidance on what college admissions officials are looking for in an application. Several college students will also lead a question and answer session on what life is really like on a college campus.

The College Access Convention will be held at Saint Anselm College. Mayor Ted Gatsas, Manchester School Superintendent Tom Brennan and Fr. Augustine Kelly, Dean of the College and VP of Academics for Saint Anselm College will all address more than 300 students planning to attend the event. Jeannette Davila, Senior Vice President of Citizens Bank, will be the keynote speaker.

Additionally, Manchester-area colleges will host customized campus tours for Manchester students this spring. Campus visits are one of the most effective activities to increase college enrollment rates.

The New Hampshire College & University Council (NHCUC) is a multi-purpose higher education consortium of the state’s higher education institutions working together on collaborative programs. Its sister organization, Campus Compact for New Hampshire, is a statewide higher education consortium focused on promoting service learning and civic engagement. New Hampshire Scholars is a project of the NHCUC and is funded by the Federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG).

The contents of the State Scholars Initiative were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

###