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COLLEGE ACCESS CONVENTION FOR MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOLS TEAM UP WITH AREA COLLEGES TO PROVIDE TIPS FOR GOING TO COLLEGE

Manchester – College is possible. This is true even for the underrepresented and first generation students in the state’s largest city. The New Hampshire College & University Council and Campus Compact for New Hampshire are providing a one-day seminar to teach students how to prepare for and pay for college to ensure that these students have access to valuable resources.

The College Access Convention will be held on November 18th 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, of NHCUC. “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 admission 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.

“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 Power.

The convention is part of a larger campaign, one that began last year with funding by the Norwin S. & Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation. The partnerships between K-12 and Higher Education this campaign has developed enhances, enriches and customizes the State Scholars Program in the Manchester School District. The New Hampshire Scholars Initiative encourages students to pursue rigorous academic coursework to better prepare them for college and the workplace. Manchester School Superintendent Tom Brennan says, "This project has increased access to college planning and college readiness programs for students in Manchester."

Over the past year and through this academic year, this partnership will give the city's high school students a chance to interact with college students and learn more about what it takes to succeed in a higher education atmosphere. Manchester's area colleges will host customized campus tours for Manchester students this spring.

The College Access Convention will be held at Southern New Hampshire University. Mayor Ted Gatsas will address more than 300 students planning to attend the event. Jeannette Davila, Senior Vice President of Citizens Bank, will be the keynote speaker.

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.

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