



NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2007 FACT SHEET

★ The State Scholars Initiative (SSI) is a national program that brings business leaders into classrooms to motivate students to complete a rigorous core course of study in high school, one that will give them an advantage in college and their careers. In communities around the country, SSI is helping thousands of students to reach for excellence and achieve it, thanks to the support and participation of both educators and the business community.

★ In December, 2006, New Hampshire was selected as one of four new states to participate in this program. A partnership of the New Hampshire Forum on the Future (NHFOF), the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) and the New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC) is working together with six pilot high schools to implement this program. Schools participating this year are Belmont High School, Gilford High School, Kingswood Regional High School, Newport High School, Stevens High School, and Winnisquam Regional High School.

★ The Scholars Core Course of Study includes at least: 4 years of English; 3 years of math (algebra 1 and 2 and geometry); 3 years of lab science (biology, chemistry, and physics); 3.5 years of social studies (chosen from U.S. and world history, world geography, economics, and government); and 2 years of a language other than English.

★ SSI is based in research that shows a strong link between the academic rigor of students' high school course of study and postsecondary degree completion. For example, 40% of students who took algebra 2 in high school earned a bachelor's degree, compared with 23% of those who stopped with geometry. But, SSI is designed to help all students succeed, not just those who want a bachelor's degree. Today, those who plan to enter career pathway programs at two-year colleges and technical institutes are finding they have to complete rigorous requirements for entry into high-demand programs like nursing, dental hygiene, computer science, and engineering technologies. The rigor of academic courses completed has proved to be a better predictor of success in postsecondary education than a student's GPA or class rank.

★ During this first year, funding is provided through the U.S. Department of Education to establish a data system for measuring the impact of SSI in New Hampshire, and to produce the materials and information needed for the program in the future. In addition to receiving SSI federal grant monies, the New Hampshire partners support the state's program through in-kind contributions that may include training for business representatives to make effective student presentations; school staff development; marketing campaigns; student scholarships; and other student incentives and recognition events. Activities focus on students in grades 8 through 12.

For additional information, please contact:
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