

For Immediate release

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COLLEGE ACCESS CONVENTION FOR MANCHESTER, DERRY, SALEM, CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Local Schools Team Up with Area Colleges to Provide Tips for Going to College;
Mayor Joyce Craig to Offer Keynote Address*

Manchester – Whether they are facing poverty or family financial challenges, or whether they are their family’s first generation high school graduates, college is possible. That’s the message from the New Hampshire College & University Council (NHCUC) as it teams up with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) for a one-day seminar to teach Manchester, Derry, Concord and Salem high school students how to prepare for and pay for college.

The College Access Convention will be held on October 24th at SNHU for over 400 high school students interested in pursuing higher education. Mayor Joyce Craig will speak to students at 9 am before sessions begin. The event runs from 9 am – 1 pm.

“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 Program. “This is an exciting 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 and 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 kicks off a larger campaign for the New Hampshire College and University Council, NH high schools, GEAR UP Manchester and the statewide NH Scholars Initiative hosted at the NHCUC. The NH Scholars Initiative encourages students to pursue rigorous academic coursework to better prepare them for college and the workplace. GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education whose mission is to significantly increase the number of underrepresented students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

SNHU President of University College, Dr. Patricia Lynott says, “This project increases access to college planning and college readiness programs for students in Manchester.” SNHU’s willingness to host the event speaks volumes to its commitment to providing access to higher education resources to area students.

Students will represent **Manchester West, Manchester Central, Manchester Memorial, Manchester School of Technology, The Founder’s Academy, Pinkerton Academy, Raymond, Concord and Salem High School.**

About NHCUC:

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. NH Scholars is a project of the NHCUC. Funding for the College Access Convention is provided by GEAR UP Manchester as it supports technical assistance to high schools across the state.

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