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New Hampshire Scholars invites business leaders to connect with school districts to provide workshops, activities and mentoring opportunities to students. Business education partnerships are critical to student success. Champions come in many forms. Schools and industry must work together to prepare students.

Best Practices: What are other schools doing?

- Development of a **business advisory committee**. May meet monthly, quarterly etc. Great way to generate ideas and communication regarding what the goal/mission is for these partnerships. Will enhance communication amongst community, school and students.
- Host a **breakfast** for community partners. A great way to get businesses into the school, learn about opportunities and invite them to become engaged.
- Business **panel presentations** to students. Invite 3-4 business leaders to share success stories.
- **Speed networking event** – could be combined with a breakfast. Small student groups rotate amongst community partners connecting with them about interests, background, skills needed for their field, etc. An interactive way to connect students with business leaders.
- **Career Day**: business leaders are set up in classrooms and students rotate amongst their chosen three to learn about their professions, what classes to take for those careers, day in the life of, etc.
- **Career fair**
- **Fundraisers**: Can be run by students and supervised by business partners. Money raised can be used for scholarships, travel costs for company tours, events, etc. Successful activities have included NH Scholars Monopoly game, calendar sales, etc.
- Development of **student officers**. Students serve as officers with key roles in organizing meetings, reaching out to businesses, communication with student body, etc. It promotes responsibility and leadership, and is great for the student's resume.
- **Job shadowing and individualized mentoring**
- **Company job site tours**
- **Internships and informational interviews**
- **Business leader presentations** in school. May utilize student/guidance advisory periods, specific classes or assembly-style. Topics may be interviewing, career exploration, and so on. Also works well to match presentation with subject material (i.e. accountant speaking in a math class; entrepreneur speaking in economics, etc).
- Connect with your local Chamber of Commerce or Rotary Club. They may choose to adopt your school's NH Scholars program as part of their outreach. Other things may also surface – students to attend their business meetings, community service projects, networking, scholarships, etc.
- **Sponsorship** of local schools (buses, events, etc) or statewide events

Other ideas? Share them with your colleagues. Send an email to power@nhcuc.org and we'll showcase your efforts in the NH Scholars eNewsletter.

“Collaboration between a school and the business community demonstrates an increased support system for students. When students hear local business professionals talk about the importance of gaining a high skill set, developing interview skills and understanding how to handle oneself outside of school, it really hits home. When local business people explain to them that 21st century skills are critical, students listen.”

Tom Raffio
President and CEO
Northeast Delta Dental