

NH Scholars Hits 50

Statewide School Achievement Program

Notches Milestone Member

Concord, NH – In just three short years, the New Hampshire Scholars program has gone from good idea to sending more and more high school graduates to the college of their choice. This week, the Salem School District (SAU # 57) formally joined the program designed to help students achieve their dream of getting into the college of their choice.

“Since we launched this program, we have awarded over 4,000 NH Scholars,” explains Scott Power, Director of the NH Scholars Initiative. “Nearly 90% of these students immediately went on to college. The state’s average is 59%. We are tremendously pleased with the results of this program so far, and we’re very proud of these hard working students, who voluntarily sign up for NH Scholars.”

The goal of this program is to sign up every high school in New Hampshire and to reach 100% acceptance to college for high school graduates. More high schools are positioned to sign on this fall. “This is not a lofty and unreachable goal. Our numbers already show that by joining NH Scholars and following its program in public schools, students dramatically boost their chances of accessing higher education,” says Power. “We are using the resources already available in public schools and simply working with students to ensure the classes they take put them in the best possible position to be accepted into college after high school.”

The NH Scholars Initiative urges students in all 50 participating high schools to be aggressive with their course schedules. Four years of English, three years of math and lab-based science, three and a half years of social science and two years of

foreign language. This provides an academic foundation of excellence that boosts a student's chances of getting into college.

Academic leaders are taking notice of NH Scholars. A growing number of colleges and universities are offering special scholarships to students who have graduated from the program. Other schools are waiving application fees to encourage these young people to apply.

"The success of this program has exceeded our best expectations," says Tom Horgan, President and CEO of NH College and University Council. "Schools are joining NH Scholars, colleges are opening their doors, and even local businesses are getting involved. It's precisely the type of investment we seek in helping our state's young people." More than 300 local businesses have joined the initiative as partners. They are working directly with schools and with students to help prepare them for higher education. These companies are opening their doors to give young people hands-on guidance on what they will need to enter the professional workforce.

"Today's NH Scholars are tomorrow's business leaders," says Horgan. "I am confident in the future of our state and our nation. These young people are remarkable and I have great confidence in them."