

October 26, 2007

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For immediate release

**New Hampshire Scholars Initiative Hires New Director.
Project Gains Momentum.**

CONCORD, NH. October 26, 2007

The New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC) has appointed Scott Power as the new state director of the New Hampshire Scholars Initiative, a statewide effort to prepare New Hampshire students for their future. Mr. Power will lead efforts to implement and sustain systemic educational change across the state. He brings with him years of college planning experience within the higher education industry.

“We are delighted to have Scott join the NHCUC. We are confident he is the right person to help us build a sustained statewide effort of encouraging students to pursue a more rigorous high school curriculum and to be better prepared for both college and work,” said Tom Horgan, President of the NHCUC.

Last year New Hampshire became one of 22 states participating in the State Scholars Initiative. Hundreds of New Hampshire middle and high school students have taken the first step to preparing for their future through this program. The New Hampshire Scholars Initiative is a Federal grant-funded program developed and administered through a partnership between the **New Hampshire College and University Council**, the **New Hampshire Forum on the Future**, the **New Hampshire Department of Education** and the **National State Scholars Initiative**

Network. The program pairs business leaders with classes of 8th grade students prior to the selection of their high school courses. Business leaders present a powerful presentation that encourages students to take a more rigorous core course of study in high school. Students and parents agree to a 4-year planner (a personalized education plan) to complete the recommended Core Course of Study.

“A good education has a real world payoff for students, businesses, and communities. New Hampshire Scholars gives students an edge – one that’s of real value to them, as well as the schools they attend, the companies they will work for, and the communities where they live,” stated Fred Kocher, President of the New Hampshire High Technology Council and a State Scholars Initiative partner.

Plans are to expand the Scholars Initiative program to another six school districts this year with a goal of achieving statewide integration and long-term sustainability by the end of the grant period. On October 26th the NH Scholars program participated in the NHCUC Annual *College Access Convention*. This event encouraged over 200 New Hampshire minority students to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams. Power presented workshops on the importance of course rigor and the impact of financial aid towards accessibility.

Survey data from Public Opinion Strategies indicates that 40 percent of recent high school graduates believe they have key gaps in their education preparation and note that if they could do high school over they would work harder and take more challenging courses

State Director Scott Power believes, “As the program gets implemented students will not only achieve greater success in their core courses, but they’ll also begin to go above and beyond their graduation requirements. This will not only prepare them for college, but also the challenging workforce. We hope this generation raises the bar for others to follow.”

There are six school districts currently participating in New Hampshire Scholars: **Belmont HS**, Belmont, NH – SAU #80, **Gilford HS**, Gilford, NH – SAU #73, **Kingswood Regional HS**, Wolfeboro, NH – SAU #49, **Newport HS**, Newport, NH – SAU #43, **Stevens HS**, Claremont, NH – SAU #6 and **Winnisquam Regional HS**, Tilton, NH – SAU #59

For more information on the New Hampshire State Scholars Initiative please contact Scott Power at 603.224.4199 x300 or spower@nhcuc.org or visit www.NHscholars.org

Founded in 1966, the NH College & University Council's mission is the advancement of public and private higher education in the state. Through collaborative efforts between the 17 member colleges and universities, the consortium enhances educational opportunities for nearly 70,000 students currently attending our member institutions.