Discover UNH Visit Day
University of New Hampshire

“Discover UNH Visit Day,” is a new program offered at UNH this fall to high schools within a two hour radius that have a large population of multicultural and first-generation students who might not be able to visit a college on their own.

The program is not designed to ‘tout’ UNH, but to get students excited about college. Included would be an opportunity to meet and ask questions of current UNH students from under-represented populations, a professor and an admissions officer. Also planned is a campus tour, lunch with professional staff members from different departments, and a discussion titled “Why College”?

All details and bus arrangements will be coordinated by the UNH Admissions Office at no cost to your school.

Questions?
Richard Haynes, Jr.
Associate Director of Admissions for Diversity
richard.haynes@unh.edu
603-862-0059

Fredric H. Taylor
Assistant Director of Admissions for Diversity
fredric.taylor@unh.edu
603-862-2875

Dates /Times:
Wednesday, November 5
9am-1pm
Friday, November 7
9am-1pm
Wednesday, November 12
9am-1pm
Friday, November 14
9am-1pm

Access Mini Grant Program
Access NH Initiative

The Access NH Initiative launched a Mini Grant Program last spring to assist with funding for activities aimed at encouraging underserved students to access higher education. Applicants from K-12, higher education and community-based organizations (CBOs) developed or enhanced existing partnerships to create innovative programs to help pave the way to college for underserved students.

To date, twenty grants, totaling $13,266, have been awarded to partnerships representing over forty higher ed institutions, K-12 and CBOs. Programs awarded include mentoring programs, field trips, campus discovery days, after-school initiatives and tutoring programs. The Access New Hampshire Initiative is made possible through the generous support provided by Jane’s Trust.

For more information, contact

Heather Keyworth
Program Assistant
Campus Compact for New Hampshire
3 Barrell Court, Suite 200
Concord, NH 03301
603.223.2302 Ext. 313

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Since its inception in 2002, more than 1200 students have attended this important access event. The convention’s goal is to encourage New Hampshire underrepresented students to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams.

This Conference offers panel presentations and testimonials from underrepresented students regarding their college experiences, financial aid workshops, networking opportunities, college planning materials, a college fair and a campus tour, while representatives from higher education around the state explain how underrepresented students can benefit from their services.

This year, the College Access Convention will be held at two locations and is expected to engage 600 students total.

The College Access Convention is part of a statewide higher education access grant targeting underrepresented student populations and funded by Jane’s Trust.

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Summer English Program
UNH Manchester

This summer, 19 students from 12 countries completed the Summer Program for ESOL Students at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester. This 5-week program, piloted in 1997 has served nearly 270 high school and returning adult students whose first language is not English. In addition to receiving intensive English grammar review and reading and writing practice, they take part in college orientation workshops through the Admissions Office, the Academic Counseling Office, and the Center for Academic Enrichment. Alongside this on-site introduction to college culture, they explore off-campus learning opportunities through field trips to the Millyard Museum, the Currier Museum of Art, and Canterbury Shaker Village. Over the years, many Summer ESOL students have gone on to part-time or full-time studies at UNH Manchester and Durham and at other colleges and universities, in New Hampshire. Some ESOL graduates have completed degree programs, while others have used their enhanced English skills to obtain US certification in their professional fields.

Also this summer, 10 middle school students from 9 countries were enrolled in the Educational Excellence for English Language Learners (EXCELL) Summer Program. This program was begun in 2004 in order to include younger students in UNH Manchester’s mission to offer college access to the people who live and work in the Upper Merrimack Valley region. Students are referred to the EXCELL program by their middle school teachers and guidance counselors. In addition to visiting the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne Point, the middle school students joined the high school and adult students on a field trip to the UNH Durham campus, both trips made possible by a grant from the Access NH Initiative. Major funding support for the 2008 EXCELL program came from the Norwin S. Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation.

Both programs emphasize the message that speakers of other languages bring unique gifts to their academic communities, and that it is never too early or too late to seek higher education.

For information about the two programs, contact Michael Pugh at (603) 641-4155 or rp@unh.edu.
Updates from the NHHEAF Network Organizations

STAR Program

The NHHEAF Network Organizations’ Center for College Planning (CCP) has recently launched a number of exciting programs to further its mission of promoting college awareness across the State. Over the summer, the CCP was awarded a grant from the College Board’s Public Service Outreach Greenhouse Grant program to encourage New Hampshire children in foster care to pursue higher education. CCP has developed the STAR (Students Transitioning and Achieving Results) program to address barriers present for foster youth in New Hampshire including transportation and accessibility of assistance and guidance through college awareness and postsecondary preparation for these children.

CCP at Exchange City

The summer also brought the opening of a Center for College Planning in Exchange City in Portsmouth, NH. Exchange City is a life-size replica of a city, designed to mimic a New Hampshire community. The purpose of Exchange City is to educate students about how the individual role of business owners, employees, citizens and volunteers contribute to a vibrant community.

Free College Planning Workshops

In more recent news, the CCP has launched free college planning workshops for students and families in New Hampshire. In response to the growing need for college planning assistance in New Hampshire, the expert college counselors from CCP will host a number of workshops in the College Planning Library at the NHHEAF Network Organizations on topics including; writing the college application essay, the college interview process, the paths to choosing a college major, information for the student athlete, college costs and funding strategies and the college admissions process. Counselors will also meet one-on-one with families to assist in filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

NH Goes to College Month

Currently, the CCP is gearing up for a busy month in October. Each year with a proclamation from the Governor, the NHHEAF Network Organizations declares October “NH Goes to College Month.” Counselors and the NHHEAF College Planning Bear mascot tour the State visiting 5th graders in an effort to promote early college awareness and get students excited about their future in education. The kick-off event will be at Conant Elementary School in Concord.

Redesigned Site >>>>

Don’t forget to check out the enhanced resources on the Organizations’ new Web site, www.nhheaf.org, launched at the end of August. The new site offers students and parents a wealth of college planning resources and tools necessary in the preparation for higher education.

For more information about the Access NH Initiative contact:
Esteban López ♦ lopez@nhcuc.org ♦ 603-225-4199 x 340
Encouraging more of New Hampshire’s kids to consider and plan on pursuing a college degree is critical today. The majority of the jobs in New Hampshire require additional education after high school, yet the average 60 year-old has more education than the average 30 year-old. Encouraging more students to continue their education is not only a necessity for our economy, it’s very beneficial to the student.

Through two years of research and pilot projects the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) has developed the Get Ready NH! Program (formerly known as Go Ahead Get Ahead or GaGa). The program engages students around this topic in innovate and non-threatening ways and is expanding this year.

It is designed to help high school sophomores get ready for college by using peer-to-peer contact with college students and creative, consistent messaging so students have a better understanding of the advantages of college. It also works to break down potential barriers to attending, such as cost concerns, being the first in a family to consider college, concerns about grades, and that they might not be able to do the work.

The effort was developed “for students, by students” through work with senior marketing majors at the University of New Hampshire and uses “street teams” of college students to partner with a high school to help get students more interested in college.

The effort features six to eight on-site points of contact between the sophomores and college student street teams. In trial efforts with Spaulding High School, street team members clad in bright blue shirts created much awareness by holding events such as contests, food and prize giveaways, conducting skits, and using video and games to connect with the students in non-threatening ways. A web site provides additional ways to interact and gain information on college readiness and addressing the barriers.

Funding is available to establish additional partnerships. A partnership involves a college that is located within easy driving distance of a high school that has a higher than average dropout rate and a lower than average college going rate. Street teams are formed out of community service offices and USNH will provide a toolkit, marketing materials, training, and even help make a connection at the school.

To learn more, e-mail Tina Newberry at tina.newberry@usnh.edu.