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Contact:

Debby Scire, Campus Compact for New Hampshire

603-223-2302 or scire@compactnh.org

Mike Vlacich, New Hampshire College & University Council

603-225-4199 or vlacich@nhcuc.org

NHCUC HOSTS RURAL NH COLLEGE TOUR

*NH College and University Council to lead 13 NH Colleges on Tour of
Dozens of NH High Schools to Encourage Enrollment in 2018*

CONCORD – The dream of going to college is not out of reach for thousands of New Hampshire high school seniors who may think their families can't afford higher education. In an effort to connect local colleges and universities with students from rural communities, the New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC) is hosting a two-week tour of high schools throughout the state. The basic idea: get educators and prospective students into the same room together to discuss the possibilities.

“We have some of the best schools in the nation,” explains Mike Vlacich, President and CEO of NHCUC. “In order to encourage the next generation of young people to stay in New Hampshire, we must partner with schools and businesses to make sure they are aware of the opportunities that exist in NH to learn, work or start a business, attending a NH based college or university is one important way to do this.”

Representatives of 13 NH colleges and universities will tour of 34 area high schools to meet with students, talk about financial aid opportunities, and seek individual ways to help disadvantaged students access higher education. Educators will tour schools from the Lakes Region to the North Country and into southwestern parts of New Hampshire. “Our state’s colleges and universities are motivated to offer every possible opportunity to local students to go to their school,” explains Vlacich. “We are all in this together. For every student we recruit, it helps the school, community and state and it opens the doors of possibility to the student. Our goal is to give every interested student a viable path to a college diploma.”

All 13 colleges and universities visit a high school together and set up a “mini fair” of sorts for the students to learn more about each institution. College admissions experts from a number of public and private institutions in New Hampshire will be available to talk with students about the admission process. Thousands of New Hampshire students have applied to area colleges and universities as a result of this annual program.

“The economic gap between those with a college degree and those without is well documented,” said Debby Scire, Executive Director of Campus Compact for New Hampshire. “Providing programming that encourages students to pursue postsecondary education is critical to our state’s economic health and democratic principles.”

Funding for the mini college tour is provided by GEAR UP, for *Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs*. It is a free program that helps students succeed in school. It helps families and students learn about choices for education after high school and how to pay for it. GEAR UP believes that every student should have the opportunity to go to college if they work hard, take the right courses and stay in school. GEAR UP also believes that planning future success should begin with students and families in 7th grade and continue through 12th grade. For students who attend colleges in New Hampshire after their high school graduation, services will continue through their important first year of college.

The following high schools will be visited as part of the program: Pittsburg School, Mascenic Regional HS, Con-Val High School, Canaan High School, Colebrook High School, Groveton High School, White Mountains Regional HS (Whitefield), Berlin Senior High School, Gorham Middle/High School, Kennett High School, Monadnock Regional HS (Swanzey), Hinsdale High School, Fall Mountain Regional High, Lisbon Regional High School, Littleton High School, Profile School (Bethlehem), Lin-Wood Public School, Woodsville High School, Rivendell Academy (Orford), Hanover High School, Sunapee High School, Plymouth Regional HS, Franklin High School, Winnisquam Regional HS, Gilford High School, Stevens High School (Claremont), Lebanon High School, Mascoma Valley Reg. High, Laconia High School, Belmont High School, Inter-Lakes High School, and Moultonborough Academy.

Participating NH colleges and universities: Colby–Sawyer College, Community College System of NH (including NHTI-Concord’s Community College, White Mountains Community College, River Valley Community College, Lake Region Community College, Manchester Community College, Nashua Community College and Great Bay Community College), Franklin Pierce University, Granite State College, Keene State College, MCPHS University, New England College, NH Institute of Art, Plymouth State University, Rivier University, Saint Anselm College, Southern NH University, and the University of NH.

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