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Contact information:
Scott Power
NHCUC
603-225-4199 Ext. 300
spower@nhcuc.org



COLLEGE ACCESS CONVENTION 2017

NHCUC Hosts Event at Great Bay Community College

Concord, NH – Whether they are facing poverty or family financial challenges, or whether they are their family’s first generation high school graduates, college is possible. That’s the message from the New Hampshire College & University Council (NHCUC) as it teams up with Great Bay Community College (GBCC) for a one-day seminar to teach Seacoast high school students how to prepare for and pay for college. Several hundred underrepresented high school students from schools all around the New Hampshire seacoast will attend the Annual College Access Convention at Great Bay Community College on Friday, November 3rd, for a day of exploring the best ways for students to follow their dreams through higher education.

This is part of a statewide effort to educate our students on strategies for paying for college. College tuition remains a difficult hurdle for many families; the cost to gain entrance is keeping many high school graduates from accessing their own hopes and dreams for the future. The College Access Convention empowers

students and their families with useful and practical tools they can use to get into the school of their choice and pay for it.

Students from **Newmarket, Farmington, Winnacunnett, Epping, Robert Lister Academy and Oyster River** will all travel to GBCC for sessions focused on applications, financial aid, campus life and various support programs that currently exist to help them access college.

This year more than 1,500 students around New Hampshire will participate in these conventions around the state, many of whom took what they learned and were accepted to college. The convention's goal is to encourage New Hampshire's underrepresented and first-generation students to pursue their higher education studies in New Hampshire. Registration is free for students. Many of these students will be immersed in a college atmosphere for the first time.

The convention will offer tips on applying for financial aid and guidance on what college admission officials are looking for in an application. Several college students will also lead a question and answer session on what life is really like on a college campus.

The College Access Convention is made possible through the NH Scholars Initiative and funded via GEAR UP NH. The convention kicks off a larger campaign for the New Hampshire College and University Council, NH high schools, GEAR UP NH and the statewide NH Scholars Initiative hosted at the

NHCUC. The NH Scholars Initiative encourages students to pursue rigorous academic coursework to better prepare them for college and the workplace. GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education whose mission is to significantly increase the number of underrepresented students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

“New Hampshire is often perceived as a state that does not face the same economic challenges confronting most other regions in the country,” said NHCUC’s Director of NH Scholars, Scott Power. “The reality is often quite different. With a rapidly growing Latino population, significant new numbers of immigrants and refugees, and changing demographics, New Hampshire must begin to seriously reach out to our underrepresented populations and encourage them to obtain as much education as possible,” Power commented.

As the fastest growing segment of the state’s population, minorities are poised to play a critical role in New Hampshire’s competitive edge. This convention provides a platform for hundreds of underrepresented high school students looking to earn a college degree and continue into the workforce of the future.

About NHCUC:

NHCUC is a multi-purpose higher education consortium of the state's higher education institutions working together on collaborative programs. Its sister organization, Campus Compact for New Hampshire, is a statewide higher education consortium focused on promoting service learning and civic engagement. NH Scholars is a project of the NHCUC. Funding for the College Access Convention is provided by GEAR UP New Hampshire as it supports technical assistance to high schools across the state.

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