

School COUNSELOR Quarterly



June 2009

Summer is Back

With summer just around the corner, this is an exciting time of year for students, counselors and teachers alike. Seniors are anxious to graduate and counselors, teachers and underclassmen are all looking forward to the start of summer!

This time of year can be difficult for seniors and their parents as they try to finalize their college plans for the coming year. Part of this process includes navigating financial aid award letters and figuring out ways to finance the gap between what colleges have offered in financial aid and the cost of attendance. Center for College Planning staff are available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to help parents and college-bound students navigate through this process.

Get a head start on next years' calendar. Schedule your NHHEAF programming for the 09-10 academic year. Visit www.nhheaf.org for a complete list of available programs. Schedule your program online or contact Bianca Holm at (800)525-2577, ext. 191 or bholm@gsmr.org.

NHHEAF STAR Program

In an effort to make higher education more accessible to foster youth, the Center for College Planning works closely with the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families to provide counseling and resources for these children. CCP has developed the STAR (Successful Transition through Awareness & Responsibility) program to address barriers present for foster youth in New Hampshire including transportation, financial aid availability and the accessibility of assistance and guidance through college awareness and postsecondary preparation for foster youth. The program will provide postsecondary awareness for students as early as 8th grade. The ultimate goal of the program is to create knowledge of the importance of higher education and to provide the means necessary to help these children achieve their aspirations. Angela Nuzzi coordinates the STAR program. If you would like to schedule a workshop or learn more, visit www.nhheaf.org/star.asp or e-mail Angela at anuzzi@nhheaf.org

Destination CollegeSM 2010

Destination CollegeSM has been scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Southern New Hampshire University. Encourage your incoming juniors to begin writing their speeches for the annual speech writing contest. Winners will receive scholarship money and an opportunity to be the keynote speaker at the event. The CCP is accepting speeches now. Visit us at www.destinationcollege.org for more info.

Destination CollegeSM 2009 Wrap-Up

Destination CollegeSM provides the opportunity for attendees to learn from a number of informative sessions that cover topics such as the college application and interview, writing a college essay, financial aid, college athletics and choosing a college major. This year's event was held at Southern NH University on March 28. Almost 1,200 students and their parents were in attendance. Tell your sophomores that Destination CollegeSM 2010 has been scheduled for Saturday, March 27 at Southern NH University.

Congratulations to the following top high schools for their impressive student attendance numbers:

Concord High School:	44 students
Londonderry High School:	38 students
Bishop Guertin High School:	28 students
Pinkerton Academy:	24 students
Gilford High School:	23 students



Destination CollegeSM scholarship winner, Patrick Martin of Pinkerton Academy.



The NHHEAF College Bear and local students at Destination CollegeSM 2009.



The NHHEAF Network Organizations
Center for College Planning
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collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



This product has been granted the Seal of Approval from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

New 9th Grade Curriculum Available!

New for 2009-2010

"High School...College...Career...Life...Bring It!" Curriculum for Freshmen

Are you looking for a way to introduce college as a concept to your 9th grade students? "High School...College...Career...Life...Bring It!" is the Center for College Planning's new 9th grade program that will help your students learn college planning fundamentals and what they need to do for the next four years to be ready for a postsecondary education.

This curriculum, designed to be delivered by a teacher or school counselor, includes information on college resumes, transcripts, and a four-year planner. We've also developed questions for a student panel that will enhance the presentation by bringing current seniors' perspectives to the freshmen.

The program is available for review and download at: www.nhheaf.org. For more information on this program, please contact College Counselors Jay Hauser or Val Castonguay at (800)525-2577, ext. 119

Jump\$tart Report Assesses Financial Savvy of Students

The Jump\$tart Coalition® for Personal Financial Literacy has issued a report entitled, *The Financial Literacy of Young American Adults*, that provides results of the 2008 National Jump\$tart Coalition Survey of High School Seniors and College Students. According to the report, the financial literacy of high school students has fallen to its lowest level ever, with a score of just 48.3 percent. The average score for college students on the same 31 question exam, however, was 62.2 percent, nearly 15 percentage points above that of high school seniors. In addition, the results showed that scores improved for every year of college with seniors averaging 64.8 percent. The report also found that the positive turnaround in high school financial literacy scores, first noted in the 2004 survey, continued only through 2006. Beginning with an average score of 57.3 percent in 1997, scores fell to 51.9 percent in 2000 and 50.2 percent in 2002 before staging a rebound to 52.3 percent in 2004. In 2006, the mean score increased by a tenth of a percent to 52.4 percent before falling to 48.3 percent in 2008.

Learn more about the local chapter of this national coalition, NH Jump\$tart, to see how they work with NH students and schools to promote financial literacy at <http://www.nhjumpstart.org>. Also, consider participating as a mentor coach for its annual LifeSmarts consumer challenge competition. Link to www.nhjumpstart.org/LifeSmarts.htm.

Training Opportunities for School Counselors

New Staff? College 101: A Workshop for the New Guidance Professional

Friday, September 18, 2009

In addition to the everyday responsibilities of managing schedules, meetings, graduation requirements, counseling and advising, school counselors are often expected to be experts on college admission and financial aid. On Friday, September 18, 2009, the Center for College Planning will be hosting College 101: A Workshop for the New Guidance Professional from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nearly 250 school counselors have "graduated" from this unique program.

During the workshop we will cover the following topics: the campus visit, the college essay, letters of recommendation, the college interview, ABC's of financial aid, and what admissions counselors are really looking for in an applicant. Counselors receive free materials and resources to help guide students and parents through the constantly changing and complex environment of college planning.

Lunch is included. RSVP TODAY! (Due to limited seats, there is priority registration for first-time attendees.)

**College Planning
Workshops for the
Guidance Professional**

Register today!

Call Patty Smith
at (800)525-2577, x143!

Financial Aid 201: For Guidance Professionals

Friday, November 13, 2009

As the fall progresses, questions turn from admission requirements to college costs, funding options and the financial aid process. This workshop, scheduled for Friday, November 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., provides the experienced school counselor with a comprehensive and understandable overview of financial aid. A panel of financial aid administrators from across the state will join us to share their expertise and to help attendees understand the dynamics of financial aid in today's environment.

Free College Summer Series



Summer 2009

During June, July and August, college admission professionals from many different postsecondary schools in New England and beyond will be visiting the NHHEAF campus to share details about their schools. Following a presentation about the school, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about campus life, housing, financial aid, admission requirements and more. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more! Space is limited to the first 50 attendees. **REGISTER TODAY!**

For more information or to register, visit: <http://www.nhheaf.org/collegesummerseries.asp> or call us at 1-800-525-2577.

A Very Big THANK YOU!

The Center for College Planning would like to extend our warmest thanks to the Guidance community. We truly appreciate the opportunity to present at your schools, promote events like Destination CollegesSM, and get to know your students and families. We are proud of our partnership which connects students to great information and support services. Time and time again, families share their appreciation for your good work helping them through the college process and so much more.

We are looking forward to working with you again next year. Thank you for your continued support of the NHHEAF Network Organizations' Center for College Planning. Have a wonderful summer!