

Starting the School Year

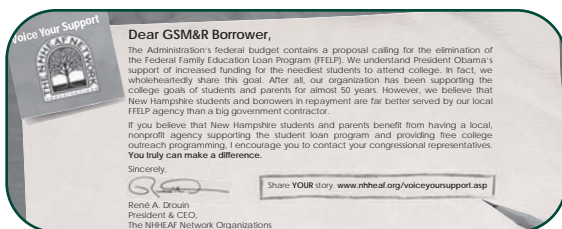
Welcome back! It's that time of year again for school counselors to advise and inspire another graduating class towards personal and academic progress! *The School Counselor Quarterly* is written especially for school counselors four times during the academic school year and covers a wide range of topics and issues related to the college process.

Many NH school counselors have utilized our office to supplement college and career curriculum already in place. As part of our charitable mission, the NHHEAF Network Organizations is committed to providing New Hampshire students with the best information about planning and paying for college. If you have not already worked with us, know that we are here for you with a host of presentations, materials and supporting services - all at no cost to your school! See the details below!

Legislation Could Impact NHHEAF

Many counselors have been reading about the legislation which could impact the NHHEAF Network Organizations, its staff and the services it provides. Hopefully, the following brief summary provides some useful clarification. On September 17, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA), which would direct the U.S. Department of Education to be the sole originator of student loans for the nation's 18 million college students. By eliminating the private-sector based Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and issuing all loans through a federal direct loan program, proponents believe that tens of billions of dollars of savings can be achieved, with no diminishment in service either to the borrower or the local community. NHHEAF's CEO, René Drouin, has been working tirelessly to advocate for the particular role nonprofit student loan agencies are playing in their communities and with their borrowers. (It is worth noting, for example, that 93% of the public high schools in New Hampshire utilize NHHEAF's college planning programs and NHHEAF's loan counselors encourage responsible borrowing - having the designation of one of the lowest default rates in the nation.) Still looking to learn more about the SAFRA legislation? The full text of the act is available [online](#).

We would also encourage you to learn more about NHHEAF's specific concerns by visiting our site at www.nhheaf.org/about.asp



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. Last March, almost 1,200 students and their parents were in attendance. Tell your juniors 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
1.888.7.GRADUATE x119
collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

Upcoming:

December: A look at the financial aid process and a preview of Destination CollegeSM.

October is "New Hampshire Goes to College" Month!

October is here again and marks the beginning of the annual "NH Goes to College" campaign for the Center for College Planning (CCP). The kick-off event took place on Friday, October 2 with 60 5th graders at Barnstead Elementary School. The Center for College Planning staff joined President & CEO René A. Drouin and the NHHEAF College Planning Bear to excite the students about the opportunities higher education in NH holds for them!

Each year, by gubernatorial proclamation, October is proclaimed "NH Goes to College" Month and during the month CCP works to educate parents and students across the State about the importance of higher education, as well as the abundance of postsecondary opportunities the State of NH holds. In addition, Androscoggin Valley Hospital (Berlin), Catholic Medical Center (Manchester), St. Joseph Hospital (Nashua), Memorial Hospital (Conway) and Cheshire Hospital (Keene) are partnering with the NHHEAF Network Organizations to provide our "Future Graduate" onesies to each baby born at their hospital during October.



NHHEAF CEO, René Drouin and CCP Counselors attended the kickoff to NH Goes to College Month at Barnstead Elementary School

Meet the New Center for College Planning Staff!

The CCP Team welcomes Brian Walker as a full-time College Outreach Specialist, working specifically with our North Country schools. Brian received his Masters in Education and social policy from Northwestern University and his undergraduate degree in economics and sociology from Fairfield University and currently teaches part-time at Plymouth State University.

Joining us as part-time College Outreach Specialists are Maureen Kenney and Sally Manikian. Maureen recently graduated from Saint Anselm College with a Bachelors in French. Sally, working in the North Country with Brian Walker, received her undergraduate degree from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland and her Masters in Postcolonial Politics from the University of Wales.



Maureen Kenney

Sally Manikian

Brian Walker

NHHEAF Program Offerings for 2009-2010

During the 08-09 academic year, the Center for College Planning presented 570 programs in elementary, middle and high schools across the state. Starting as early as 2nd grade, the CCP is committed to bringing relevant, current and important information to students across the state on topics ranging from college readiness to college savings. Below is a complete list of the programs offered by NHHEAF through CCP:

DAY PROGRAMS

- NH Jumpstart "I Can Save" Moonjar (2nd grade)
- Get on the Bus! (5th grade)
- Are You Smarter than a 12th Grader? (8th grade)
- College Prep for Seniors
- Destination - Where Students Meet Their Future (11th grade)
- Financial Aid 101

NIGHT PROGRAMS

- The College Overview for Juniors/Seniors
- Financial Aid Night (for seniors and their parents)
- Award Letter Seminar
- The Students Athlete
- Early College Planning for Parents (K-8)

WEBINARS

- Know the Score: Standardized Testing
- College Prep for Seniors
- The Write Stuff
- Information for the Student Athlete
- College Cost and Funding Strategies

LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

- College Costs and Funding Strategies
- College Prep for Juniors/Seniors
- Consider a Two-Year Degree
- CSS Profile Completion
- Early College Savings Options
- Filing the FAFSA and CSS Profile Apps
- Information for the Student Athlete
- Know the Score
- Managing College Costs
- Mock Interviews (students only)
- Point...Click...Go... Online Tools and Practical Tips for College Planning & Financial Aid
- The College Interview
- The Paths to Choosing a Major and a College
- The Write Stuff
- Understanding the Award Letter

Remember to check out our enhanced [counselor pages on our web site](#).
[Click here](#) to review the descriptions and schedule a presentation at your school.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR TRAINING

College 101: Workshop for the New Guidance Professional

In addition to the everyday responsibilities of managing schedules, meeting graduation requirements, counseling and advising, guidance counselors are often expected to be experts on college admissions and financial aid. On Friday, January 22, NHHEAF will be hosting College 101: Workshop for the New Guidance Professional. Over 300 new counselors have "graduated" from this unique program. Topics include the campus visit, the college essay, letters of recommendation, the college interview, ABC's of financial aid, and what admissions counselor are really looking for in an applicant. College admissions professionals join us for an interactive panel discussion. 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. Seats are limited. Register today by calling **Patty Smith at 1-800-525-2577 x143**.

Financial Aid 201: For Guidance Professionals (Two locations!)

Have you been getting questions about college costs, funding options and the financial aid process? The Center for College Planning would like to help. This workshop scheduled on Friday, November 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, provides both the experienced guidance director and even the new school counselor with a comprehensive and understandable overview of financial aid. A panel of financial aid professionals from the NH Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NHASFAA) will provide program updates and answer your specific questions. We are very pleased that Financial Aid 201 will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the NHHEAF Network offices in Concord on Friday, November 13 and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at White Mountain Community College on Friday, November 20. Reserve a spot at either session by calling **Patty Smith at 1-800-525-2577 x143**.

New 9th Grade Curriculum Available!

New for 2009-2010

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

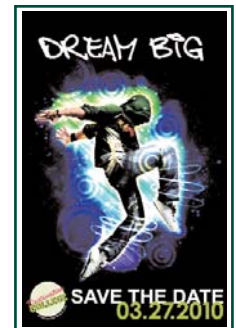
Are you looking for a way to introduce college as a concept to your 9th grade students? "High School...College...Career...Life...Bring It!" is the Center for College Planning's new 9th grade program that will help your students learn college planning fundamentals and what they need to do for the next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

Save the Date

The Center for College Planning will hold its 11th annual Destination CollegeSM (DC) event on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester. Promotional materials including postcards and posters will be sent to your school soon! In the meantime, remind seniors to submit a speech for the Destination CollegeSM Speech contest. Students are asked to write a 5 to 7 minute speech examining their own college planning experiences. Students will be competing for a chance to be the keynote speaker at the DC event and win up to \$1000 in scholarship money. All speeches are due by January 29, 2010 and winners will be notified in February. For more information on how to enter, [click here](#).

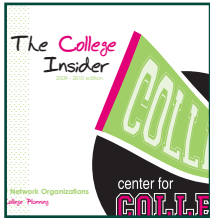


Let Us Post Your Scholarship Opportunities for You!

Take a tour of our NH93 Scholarship Superhighway! This web site provides an effective way for students to search for local scholarships without poring over stacks of scholarship flyers and multiple scholarship sites. Students create personalized profiles that can be matched against a database of local opportunities for New Hampshire students. Links to other scholarship sources, such as scholarships from the business community and national search engines, are also provided. Schools may add their scholarships to www.nh93.com electronically. Contact College Outreach Specialists **Angela Nuzzi or Rich Neilsen at (800)525-2577, ext. 119** for more information!

Order Free Publications

CCP has updated many of its publications, handouts and workbooks for the 2009-2010 school year. Please call 1-800-525-2577 x143 or visit www.nhheaf.org to order any of the following:



The College Insider '09-'10

This is a college planning guide with information about college interviews, NCAA regulations, career exploration, college admissions criteria and applying for financial aid.



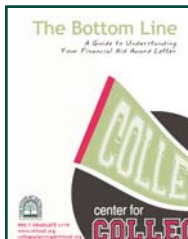
NH Next

A guide to life after high school, *NH Next* contains information about college and career planning, including information about cover letter and resume writing, college admissions and financial aid preparation, as well as military options. This magazine is produced in collaboration with Parenting New Hampshire.



The Pocket Guide to Scholarships

This guide provides a list of local and national scholarship resources and is designed to help educate students about scholarship fraud.



Not Just The Bottom Line

A guide to understanding your financial aid award letter. You have received your financial aid package- now what? What do all of those numbers mean? *The Bottom Line* can help you figure it all out.



The Center for College Planning Postcard

This flyer describes the free services and products offered through the NHHEAF Network Organizations' Center for College Planning.



The Financial Aid Organizer

This organizer provides an easy way to store college planning materials. A helpful timeline helps families visualize the financial aid process.



Early College Planning Guide

A comprehensive college planning guide for parents of K-8 students, topics include supporting your child's aspirations, academic considerations, financial aid, college savings and much more.

News Around New Hampshire

CollegeBoard Announces SAT Scores

The CollegeBoard has announced SAT scores for the class of 2009. The state of New Hampshire continues to have a high participation rate with 75% of all New Hampshire students taking the SAT. New Hampshire students also continue to perform above the national average on all sections of the SAT. The SAT is comprised of three sections that are scored on a scale of 200-800. The mean scores for NH students graduating in 2009 were:

Critical Reading- 521 (the same as last year)

Mathematics- 523 (improved two points from last year)

Writing- 511 (declined one point from last year)

ACT Announces 2009 Scores

The ACT recently released it's 2009 College Readiness Report. The average composite score for NH graduates was section 23.5; up from last year's mean score of 23.1. The ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36. The ACT test continues to gain popularity; the report finds that 2,500 students, or 15% of 2009 graduating high school students, took the ACT. That number reflects a 56% increase since 2005. See how NH students fared [here](#).

News Around the Nation



Friend Request Accepted?

A recent Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions survey of college admission representatives found that 70% of admission officials reported receiving 'friend requests' for Facebook from potential applicants. As social networking sites continue to grow in popularity, a 2008 Harvard survey noted that 86% of college students have one, schools may have to reconsider their policies regarding Facebook and other social networking sites. The same survey reported that only 13% of the 401 schools surveyed had a policy in place that outlined proper guidelines for interacting with applicants on social networking sites. It is important for potential applicants to think about how they are represented on their Facebook pages and whether or not they want college admissions officials to view the content on their pages.

Your next School Counselor Quarterly will be sent in December. Until then, good luck writing senior recommendations and easing the transition for your freshmen! Thanks and enjoy the fall.

Would you like to contribute?

Please consider contributing ideas, stories, questions and comments for future editions. Send us your thoughts to collegeplanning@nhheaf.org or call us at 1-800-525-2577 x 119.

Best wishes for a successful year!

If you do not want to receive further School Counselor Quarterly e-mails, please respond to collegeplanning@nhheaf.org.

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that provide students and families with the resources and funding to pursue higher education aspirations. Funds generated by the Organizations make their charitable mission possible as student loan earnings are reinvested in programs and services that benefit citizens of New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.nhheaf.org.

