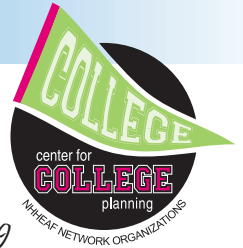




# The ARSITY LETTER

Created Especially for High School Juniors



July 2009

## Preparing for Senior Year

"College application deadlines? Financial aid paperwork? Campus visits? Letters of recommendation? College essays? All of these things can wait until my senior year begins, right?"

Without sounding like a college drill sergeant, if you wait until your senior year begins to continue your college search process, you will soon find yourself wondering where the time has gone. Your recently graduated friends can attest that senior year goes by fast and there is little time to do all of the things you want to do, never mind the things you have to do. The more you can accomplish this summer, the easier the college application process will seem this fall.

### *What can I do now to make the process easier later?*

A good way to narrow your list of prospective colleges is to surf the web and research each of the schools at sites like [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com). These college search engines help you to eliminate colleges that do not meet your criteria. Our College Planning Library offers free use of college search software, including **Kuder®**, **Choices®** and **CollegeSource®**. You can also access some of our specialized college search software from home. Simply call us at 800.525.2577 ext.119 to get the username and passwords you'll need.

### *Limited access to the web or trouble finding programs of study?*

Call the Center for College Planning to set up a counseling appointment with one of our expert counselors. We'll guide you through the process and help you develop a list of schools. Once you've established an initial list, you'll want to take the next step of requesting information and getting on campus. Take advantage of some of our free **in-house workshops** or **webinars** to learn more about standardized testing, writing the college essay, the college interview and more. Visit [www.nhheaf.org/events.asp](http://www.nhheaf.org/events.asp) for a calendar of events and to register.

### *Schools in Your Own Backyard*

Our **College Summer Series** brings college admission professionals from schools in New Hampshire and beyond to our Concord offices to spend time with YOU! Following a brief presentation about the school, families and counselors will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn about campus life, admission requirements, housing, financial aid and more. Click [here](#) to register!

Remember, nothing can replace an actual campus visit when researching potential schools. Still, we recognize that some

## Center for College Planning at the NHHEAF Network Organizations

The Center for College Planning at the **NHHEAF Network Organizations** is dedicated to providing students and families with valuable information about the college planning process—from savings options and college admissions requirements, to applying for financial aid and scholarships. We serve all student populations: traditional, continuing education, graduate and adult learner. We offer college planning materials and coordinate speakers for schools, businesses and community organizations free of charge. We provide dynamic small group workshops in our Concord, New Hampshire office. We also provide a toll free college planning hotline and comprehensive Web site. Our goal is to promote higher education as the means to achieving personal, career and life goals.

## The NHHEAF Network Organizations

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four independent nonprofit organizations dedicated to streamlining the student loan process:

**New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF)** guarantees, originates and disburses your loan.

**New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation (NHHELCO)** funds your loan.

**Granite State Management & Resources (GSM&R)** services your loan.

**NHHEAF Network Educational Foundation (NNEF)** administers charitable giving.



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

campuses may be just too far or too expensive to visit early on in your search. According to a recent survey of potential college students, 85% begin their research online. So why not try a virtual tour? [www.Campustours.com](http://www.Campustours.com) offers virtual tours of over 400 colleges nationwide. Simply search the school you are interested in or check out one of the spotlight schools. While it is recommended that you always visit a school before accepting admission, a virtual tour may be a great way to see a school that would otherwise require a plane ticket.

### *Is it ever too early to visit college campuses?*

While college visits can begin as early as freshman year of high school, by the summer before your senior year, you'll be in the mindset to really absorb the experience and maturely evaluate the campuses for all they have to offer.

## *Pros and Cons of the Summer Campus Visit*

### *Pros*

- Personalized/smaller groups
- Good weather
- More time in your busy calendar
- Campus is green and dry
- Ample time to re-visit during the fall if still interested
- Interview can be done early
- More parking - easier to navigate campus
- Clearance items at the bookstore!

### *Cons*

- Students on campus may be minimal
- Campus "feel" during summer may not translate into the same "feel" during academic months
- Professors may not be as accessible
- Buildings may be under construction or being renovated
- Limited (if any) opportunity to observe activities or classes
- Unlikely to see furnished dorm space

### *Are there college courses I can take while in high school?*

Absolutely. The **Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH)** has partnered with high schools throughout the state to offer a program called "Project Running Start." It offers high school students the opportunity to enroll and attend challenging college courses while still in high school (at a significant reduction in cost). Courses range from general studies to career-specific classes. Many are courses you will be taking anyway, so why not get the college credit for it now?

All courses are offered during the school day just like any other high school course. They are available at high schools throughout the state. Talk to your high school guidance counselor concerning availability at your school.

#### **Some of the many benefits for students to participate in Project Running Start:**

- Students receive college credit and appropriate high school credit.
- Students pay lower tuition rates than traditional CCSNH students.
- Students are challenged and motivated by rigorous courses during their junior and senior year.
- Students may avoid repeating some freshman year courses, thereby obtaining a "running start" on a college career.



eStart is a partnership between the **Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS)** and the **Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH)**. Credits earned through eStart are **dual credits - high school and college**. The online courses are taught by CCSNH faculty.

eStart courses are only available to high school juniors and seniors who are enrolled in a public school, private school, alternative school or home school program. The college credits may be used for degree programs at CCSNH or transferred to other post secondary institutions.

The Community College System of New Hampshire **eStart tuition is \$100**. Students may register (enroll) in a Fall 2009 eStart course before **August 26, 2009** and eStart classes begin **August 31, 2009**.

Contact your school's guidance department to be sure the eStart course meets requirements for high school credit and graduation. For more information on the eStart program, visit <http://www.ccsnh.edu/estart>.

## *The College Interview*

Are you starting to think about your college interview? What to say? What to wear? What to bring? Come attend a "College Interview" workshop in our Center for College Planning Library from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27 or Wednesday, August 12. During this workshop, you will learn tips for articulating your strengths, creativity and character during admission interviews. After the workshop, you will be given the opportunity to participate in a mock interview with one of our counselors. You will receive feedback and suggestions about how to make your college interview a success! Register today at [www.nhheaf.org/events.asp](http://www.nhheaf.org/events.asp)!

## *News Around the Nation*

The current economic crisis is causing an interesting trend in college enrollment. More and more students are choosing community colleges or two-year colleges in order to curb the high cost of four year institutions. Community colleges enroll 44% of all U.S. undergrads and that number is growing. In a recent *US News and World Report* education blog, George R. Boggs, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, gives ten great reasons for choosing a community college for continuing education. The reasons range from affordability and convenience to diversity and smaller class sizes. Click [here](#) to read all ten reasons why a community college may be a good fit for you and your wallet.

## *Career Opportunities for the Next Decade*

In a guest column in the July 12, 2009 issue of the ([Washington Post](#)), President Barack Obama wrote: "In an economy where jobs requiring at least an associate's degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience, it's never been more essential to continue education and training after high school."

"Preparing the Workers of Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow" is a report prepared by President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors. Among other interesting findings, it shows jobs requiring only an associate degree or skills certificate are projected to grow slightly faster than those requiring at least a bachelor's degree in the coming decade. Read the [full report](#) for details, but check out these highlights.

- Environment-related (or "green") occupations will rapidly outpace growth in all other occupations between 2000 and 2016. Careers such as environmental engineering technicians, environmental engineers, environmental scientists and specialists (including health), and environmental science and protection technicians (including health) continue to grow.
- Health care is forecasted to remain a large source of job growth in the labor market. The trend toward more employment in health care is expected to continue, with many health care occupations, including medical records and health information technicians, registered nurses, clinical laboratory technicians, and physical therapists, expected to grow.
- The construction industry is projected to eventually recover and add jobs in the coming decade. Think demand for such skilled workers as electricians and plumbers.

**The Center for College Planning's** goal is to promote higher education as a means to achieving personal, career, and life goals. Call us today at (800)525-2577 ext. 119 to set up an appointment with one of our College Outreach Specialists. We can help you research careers and colleges to help you meet your goals - for **FREE!**

## Campus Spotlight

### Did you Know?

#### Saint Anselm Students Dig for History in Italy

While most college students return home for the summer, this summer a group of 20 Saint Anselm College students and faculty are braving heat and snakes to excavate what they believe is a religious sanctuary 75 miles northwest of Rome. The five-week annual excavation began in 2006 with seven Saint Anselm College students. The team, including students from other colleges, is documenting their trip with blogs, photos, and a map on their web site, [www.digumbria.com](http://www.digumbria.com).



Your next college planning e-mail will be sent in August. Meanwhile, enjoy your summer and visiting the college campuses.

Don't forget to friend NHHEAF on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



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Facebook

twitter

