



October 2008

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 Center for College Planning is pleased to assist by presenting the first in a series of electronic newsletters to help counselors and students prepare for the challenges ahead. The School Counselor Quarterly is written and sent out to you four times during the academic school year. We cover a range of topics and issues related to the college process. From new admissions policies and college savings plans to scholarship services, we hope to offer local insight to issues that impact your students and their families. In order to make this effort especially relevant, we'd love to hear from you. 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!

October is New Hampshire Goes to College Month!



The Center For College Planning counselors attended the kickoff to NH Goes to college Month at Conant School in Concord. Left to right: Holly Vieten, Lisa Lonigro, Justin Hauser, Erin Hathaway, The NHHEAF Bear, Val Castonguay, Angela Nuzzi and Bianca Holm.

Working Together

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 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 free! If you have worked with us in the past, read on to learn about our new changes.

Destination CollegeSM 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 29th. Almost 1200 NH students and their parents were in attendance. Congratulations to the following high schools for their impressive student attendance numbers:

Salem High School:	76 students
Londonderry High School:	37 students
Bishop Guertin High School:	37 students
Merrimack High School:	34 students
Alvirne High School:	32 students



The NHHEAF Network Organizations
Center for College Planning
1.800.525.2577 x119
collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



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

NHHEAF Program Changes for 2008-2009

What began over twelve years ago at NHHEAF as a “resource center”, has grown from serving hundreds of families per year to tens of thousands and is now known as the Center for College Planning. During this time, your support and constructive feedback has been incredibly valuable. It has helped to shape the programs we offer today and we hope our involvement has helped you to foster a college-going culture at your school. As we enter this next year, we have looked closely at the programs we administer and the services we provide and have given thoughtful consideration to how we can more effectively help a broad range of students and provide more focused assistance for those needier students

1. College Counseling Appointments

We recognize that many families benefit from the information they receive when they visit our Concord office, but do not require the one-on-one attention of an appointment. In fact, many would actually benefit from the discussion that naturally happens during small group workshops. Therefore, beginning in September, we have moved from one-on-one admissions-related appointments to small group workshops in our College Planning Library. Personalized one-on-one assistance filing the FAFSA, however, will continue to be a key service we provide for all families.

It is **important** to note that one-on-one admissions-related college counseling will still be available to students who require additional support as determined by a school counselor or other concerned adult. Please contact our office if you feel a student would benefit from additional support through the admissions process. You are now able to direct students and families to our Web site which describes the free workshops offered at our library and provides an online registration process. Click on the following link to view the workshops currently being offered at our College Planning Library in Concord: www.nhheaf.org/events.asp

2. 9th & 10th Grade Programs

As we reviewed the presentation schedule for the year, it seemed that only a handful of schools utilized our organization for either the 9th Grade Transition to High School Presentation or 10th Grade Career Presentation. Because of this, we have decided not to offer those programs and, instead, to infuse our 8th grade program with much of the content from the 9th grade program and restructure the College Prep for Juniors program with relevant aspects of the 10th grade program. For those schools that enjoyed either of these programs, we are pleased to share the PowerPoint for schools' use by November.

3. College Essays

In recent years, we have received feedback from the admissions community about our willingness to read college admissions essays for high school students. Understandably, campuses want to be certain that it is the students' ideas and writing skills showcased, not our college counselors'. Though it has always been our philosophy that we never rewrite, only ask critical questions to help students in the writing process, it is clearly a service that has been met with mixed reviews. Therefore, we will incorporate several “Write Stuff” workshops into our Library programs and will not review individual college essays beginning in September.

4. Web Site

We're thrilled to share that www.nhheaf.org has gotten a makeover! The new Web site features excellent content for K-12 students and parents, school counselors and postsecondary school administrators. There is an event registration and calendar section, frequently asked questions and even a blog! The site will have a new look, too, and we're very proud of the navigation and design.

Available Presentations

- Early College Planning for Parents (evening program)
- Get on the Bus! (daytime program for 5th grade students)
- Who Wants to be a College Graduate? (daytime program for 8th grade students)
- College Prep for Juniors (daytime program for high school juniors)
- The College Overview for Juniors/Seniors (evening program)
- The Student Athlete (evening program)
- Financial Aid Presentation (evening program)
- Award Letter Seminar (evening program)

Visit the following link http://www.nhheaf.org/index.asp?page=sch_events to review the descriptions and schedule a presentation at your school.

Enjoy our Free Publications

The Center for College Planning has updated many of its publications, handouts and workbooks for the 2008-2009 school year. Please call 1-800-525-2577 x119 to order any of the following:



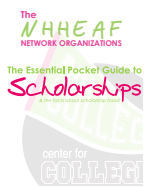
The College Insider '08-'09

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



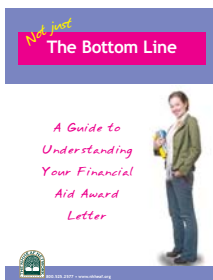
NH Next

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 Center for College Planning Flyer

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



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.

Save the Date

- **Destination CollegeSM: 10th Annual College Prep Convention for High School Juniors and their Parents.** Saturday, March 28, 2009 at Southern New Hampshire University. More information will be sent in December

- **New Counselor?**

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 admission and financial aid. On Friday, January 9th, the Center for College Planning will be hosting College the 101: Workshop for the New Guidance Professional. Over 200 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. 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. Reserve a spot today by calling **Angela Nuzzi at 1-800-525-2577 x119.**

- **Financial Aid Questions?**

Financial Aid 201: For Guidance Professionals

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 Wednesday, November 12th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, provides both the experienced school director and even the newest school counselor with a comprehensive and understandable overview of financial aid. Reserve a spot today by calling **Patty Smith at 1800-525-2577 x143.**

News Around New Hampshire

CollegeBoard Announces SAT Scores

The CollegeBoard has announced SAT scores for the class of 2008. New Hampshire continues to have a high participation rate; 74% of New Hampshire high school students took the SAT. Females comprised 52.4% of New Hampshire’s 2008 test taking population, compared to 53.1% in 2007. The percent of New SAT takers who noted that they were a first generation college student was 29% in 2008. New Hampshire also boasts higher mean scores in each SAT section compared to all of New England and the Nation. New Hampshire mean scores 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)

For more information about how New Hampshire students fared on the SAT,

visit: <http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/News/sat08.htm>.

News Around the Nation

Virtual College Fair - November 12 & 13, 2008

www.collegeweeklive.com

CollegeWeekLive (CWL) is a virtual college fair to help prospective students in their college planning by connecting them with colleges in a live, interactive environment. The next CollegeWeekLive college fair is scheduled to take place on November 12th and 13th 2008 and will focus on the college search and application process. This promises to be the largest event yet, with hundreds of schools from across the country and around the world as well as the top speakers in the field. Attendance is free. There are currently about 140 schools registered to participate in November. The organizers expect 80 more schools will register between now and the live fair. CollegeWeekLive fairs feature:

- Live streaming video presentations from college admission experts addressing college planning topics such as:
 - » Financial Aid
 - » Standardized Test (SAT, ACT)
 - » College Admissions Trends
 - » Sports Scholarships
- Real-time, interactive Q&A sessions with admissions officials
- Live interactive video chats with current college students providing an insiders perspective on their school and the admissions process
- Virtual booths for colleges, featuring electronic brochures, videos, webinars, podcasts and real-time IM and video chat between admissions counselors and students/parents
- Scheduled school specific presentations by admissions officials

For more information or to register your students visit: <http://www.collegeweeklive.com/counselors.html>

Upcoming:

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

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.

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.