



December 12, 2017

Dear Friends:

We would like to share with you some of the Reach High Scholars Program's recent good news.

### **New RHSP Structure Adopted**

After operating on an informal basis for the first few years, with exceptionally good college admissions results, RHSP has now moved to a more defined structure, with clear criteria for selection and standards for continuing membership.

#### **Eligibility points introduced**

Members of RHSP will accumulate eligibility points for their academic achievements and their involvement in initiatives of RHSP, with a minimum number of points required at the beginning of each year for continued membership. Rising seniors will be recognized as Members, Honors Members and Highest Honors Members based on accumulated points and they will be able to include their membership status on their college applications. The admission offices at about 100 top colleges are being furnished information on the activities of RHSP to provide them with an appreciation of the value of this credential.

#### **64 new members inducted**

On the evening of December 5<sup>th</sup>, our 64 new members were welcomed into the program at an induction ceremony attended by over 175 students, family members and other guests. The new members are quite evenly spread over four classes: juniors (17), sophomores (17), freshmen (13) and 8<sup>th</sup> graders (17). The commitment by these students and their parents ensures that dozens of students will be maximizing the benefits of RHSP's initiatives throughout their secondary-school years.

### **Excellent College Results**

Eight students in the RHS Class of '17, a record number, went to highly competitive (top 3%) colleges. They are at Bard (1), Hamilton (2), Hobart & Wm. Smith (2), Wheaton (2) and Worcester Polytech (1).

### **Great Summer Program Attendance**

In the summer of 2017, we had 26 students in summer boarding academic enrichment programs at Brown (4), Dartmouth (7), Phillips Exeter (11), St. Paul's School (4) and the University of Rochester (1; who also attended Brown). The total number is another record, as are the numbers at Brown and PEA.

Raymond Roundtables, our Raymond-based enrichment program for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders had 30 students last summer. The classes use Phillips Exeter's world-renowned "Harkness Method" of student-centered seminars conducted around a table, with the teacher guiding and fostering discussion among the students. The students take responsibility for their education, learn to listen to

each other, understand their intellectual abilities and discover that learning is fun. Since its start in 2010, over 250 students have participated in Raymond Roundtables.

### In-Depth PSAT & SAT Test Prep

We had 17 students in our three-session Fall PSAT Boot Camp and expect about the same number in the 13-session Winter-Spring SAT Boot Camp for juniors. These courses offer more preparation than is available at any other high school in New Hampshire. They are run by Academic Approach, a national test prep company.

### Fast Facts about the Reach High Scholars Program

- Our [website](#) has been redesigned and it is now fully functional on cell phones and tablet devices. We also have a new logo that symbolizes our mission.
- In past nine years, 42 students have gone to highly-competitive colleges.
- Most of them have financial aid with small amounts of debt and need-based grants of up to \$62,000 per year that, over four years, will have a total value of over \$5.1 million.
- During 2011-2017, 6% of RHS graduates went to highly competitive colleges; based on available information, only two NH high schools have done better.
- RHSP students have received financial aid from Summer Enrichment partners (Brown, Dartmouth, Phillips Exeter and St. Paul's) totaling about \$740,000 (28% of which was reimbursed by RHSP and supporters).
- We have had contributions from charitable institutions and individuals to RHSP and its summer partners of about \$300,000. Hence, cash contributed to RHSP and its partners has led, in the form of need-based financial aid grants from colleges, to a **17X multiplier effect**.

### RSHP Resources

RHSP's philosophy is that money should not be a roadblock to a great education. Top colleges have plenty of financial aid. We use our resources to help RHS students get through the starting gates.

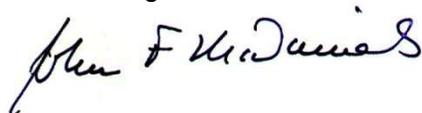
The operating expenses of RHSP are covered by contributions from its Board of Directors. Gifts from other donors support specific initiatives, like Raymond Roundtables and the Boot Camps, which have meaningful shortfalls due to our very concessionary "sticker prices" and generous need-based aid. These initiatives require more funding as they grow. Some of our donors also contribute directly to the summer partners to support their generous aid to our students.

In the spirit of the holiday season, we welcome help in this pioneering education effort through gifts to our tax-exempt charitable organization. They truly are gifts that keep on giving. Donations can be made by a check sent to: **Reach High Scholars Program, P.O. Box 982, Raymond, NH 03077**, or via **PayPal or a credit card** by clicking [here](#).

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We hope this will give some sense of the overall effort in which many of you have participated and generously supported. We look forward to keeping you posted and maintaining your enthusiasm for helping Raymond students reach higher in their pursuit of education.

Warmest regards,



John F. McDaniels  
Chairman Reach High Scholars Program