

Reach High Scholars Program

P.O. Box 982
Raymond, N.H. 03077

December 1, 2016

Dear Friends:

We would like to share with you some of RHSP's recent good news.

Continued Success in College

Several Reach High Scholars who were members of the RHS Class of '12 finished successful college careers in the spring and have moved on to new challenges. Here are examples of noteworthy outcomes for some of this year's college graduates:

- Charlie DeBenedetto (RHS '12, Hobart '16) – graduated *summa cum laude*, elected a member of *Phi Beta Kappa* and awarded Raymond's second-ever Fulbright Scholarship, to teach in Taiwan for a year. Jesse Hardman (RHS '11, Skidmore '15) received the first. (For press releases on Charlie and Jesse: <http://www.reachhighscholars.org/publicity.html>)
- Ashley Lord (RHS '12, Dartmouth '16) – working in Littleton, Massachusetts, as a user interface developer at IBM Watson, the cognitive business arm of IBM that uses natural language processing and machine learning to reveal insights from unstructured data
- Joe Morin (RHS '12, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute '16) – working in East Rutherford, New Jersey, as a design engineer for the U.S. subsidiary of Peri Formwork Systems, a German company that is one of the world's largest manufacturers of formwork and scaffolding systems
- Abbey Schlangen (RHS '12, Trinity '16) -- working in Los Angeles, California, as an account manager at Unified Social, a company that provides software to help clients' productivity in their use of marketing data

Recent News

- In 2016, RHSP took over the direction of Raymond Roundtables, a summer academic enrichment program for middle school and ninth grade students. It was operated during the first six years by Phillips Exeter Academy. Raymond Roundtables is an important early component in a continuum of initiatives offered by RHSP that lead to boarding summer enrichment programs, PSAT and SAT prep, and college visits in later years.
- RHSP continues to operate PSAT and SAT Boot Camps that offer more preparation than is available at any other high school in New Hampshire. The courses are run by Academic

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Approach, a national test prep company. The SAT tests are valuable as common-denominator measurements of all applicants to U.S. colleges. They also are an effective way to show that students from Raymond are as well prepared as those from wealthier school districts, many of whom have prepared with courses costing 4-5 times what ours cost.

- RHS has been selected as one of four high schools in the country to be in the Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth program for a third consecutive four-year period. Eight current RHS freshmen will be selected to participate and spend two or three weeks at Dartmouth in each of the next four summers. During the next four years, there will be Dartmouth students in RHS for most of the school year, helping the eight students with their academic progress and promoting college awareness throughout RHS.
- Genny Moriarty, formerly an English teacher at Phillips Exeter Academy and now a writer/editor in the Communications Office at PEA, was elected to our Board of Directors.
- Ami Neeper (RHS '11, Holy Cross '15), who is studying for a doctor of pharmacy degree at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, will be joining our Board of Directors.
- Steve Diamond (RHS '10, WPI '14), an engineer at BAE Systems in Nashua, will be joining our Board of Directors.
- Elena Gosalves-Blanco, director of Exeter Summer, will be joining our board as an advisory director.
- Elizabeth Holcomb has joined as the part-time program director of RHSP.
- Having sent 27 students to highly competitive colleges in the prior five years, we had just two in 2016: Tyler Jones to RPI and Alyssa White to Bard. Indications for the Class of 2017 are very positive, with 8-10 viable candidates for top colleges.
- During 2011-2016, 5.6% of RHS graduates went to highly competitive colleges. Based on available information, only two New Hampshire high schools have done better.
- The recent quarterly *Exeter Bulletin*, which goes out to 30,000 PEA alumni, parents, faculty, students and friends, has a very complementary article on the relationship between RHSP and PEA. The article can be viewed at: <http://www.exeter.edu/news/harkness-community>.

Full Circle

It would be great if Reach High Scholars who leave Raymond to attend top colleges would return and become role models for current students active in the program. However, as attractive as Southern New Hampshire is for living and working, a good education opens opportunities around the globe. We are seeing this as our students graduate from college and pursue wonderful opportunities in a number of locations.

Fortunately, we have a few homing pigeons in our flock who are making valuable contributions to RHSP. Jon Lemay (RHS '11, Skidmore '16) is an English teacher at Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis, Tennessee. He spent last summer in New Hampshire, teaching in Raymond Roundtables and at Exeter Summer (where we had seven RHS students). Ami Neeper and Steve Diamond recently married (RHSP's first wedding!) and are living in Manchester. They have become very active in RHSP and are inspirational advisors for current students.

Grantors to RHSP Get a Good Bang for Their Buck

- Over the past eight years, charitable institutions and individuals have contributed \$206,000 to RHSP and our summer enrichment partners (Brown, Dartmouth, Phillips Exeter and St. Paul's).
- Raymond students have received \$568,000 of aid from the summer enrichment partners.
- 31 RHS students have gone to highly competitive (top 3%) colleges; most of whom have financial aid with small amounts of debt and need-based grants of up to \$62,000 per annum that, over four years, results in a total value of over \$3.5 million.
- Hence, cash contributed to RHSP and its partners has led to a **17X multiplier effect**.

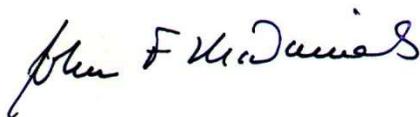
RHSP's philosophy is that money should not be a roadblock to a great education. Top colleges have plenty of financial aid. We use our resources to help RHS students get through the starting gates.

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. Checks can be sent to: **Reach High Scholars Program, P.O. Box 982, Raymond, NH 03077.**

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