

# Reach High Scholars Program

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

July 18, 2015

Dear Friends of the Reach High Scholars Program:

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

## Success in College

In the early days of RHSP, there were some concerns that RHS students going to top colleges might not fit in with wealthier students; they probably would struggle with the challenging academics; and they would graduate with unbearable debt burdens and no assurance of finding anything worthwhile to do.

The results to date are very promising. Of the more than 50 active participants in RHSP now attending or graduated from college:

- all are on track to complete in four years;
- most are excelling academically and many have better grades than they did at RHS;
- in almost all cases, they are graduating with debt of not more than \$20-30,000; and
- they are going on to excellent graduate programs and jobs.

## Examples of Great Outcomes

- *Charlie Martin* (RHS '09, RPI '13) – studying for a Ph.D in Astrophysics at RPI;
- *KarryAnne Belanger* (RHS '10) - Wheaton '14) – studying for a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at University of Texas Medical School;
- *Steve Diamond* (RHS '10, WPI '14) – working as a Software Engineer at BAE Systems, a multinational defense, security and aerospace company;
- *Jesse Hardman* (RHS '11, Skidmore '15) – awarded Raymond's first ever Fulbright Scholarship, to teach in Germany for a year, after which he will attend law school;
- *Samantha Harmon* (RHS '11, Dartmouth '15) – starting work as a Product Innovation Associate at Athenahealth, a healthcare technology company;
- *Jake Leavitt* (RHS '11, Brown '15) – starting work as a Research Assistant in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale Medical School;
- *Jon Lemay* (RHS '11, Skidmore '15) – starting work as an English Teacher at Lausanne Collegiate School, a private secondary school in Memphis, TN; and
- *Amy Neeper* (RHS '11, Holy Cross '15) – studying for a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Degree at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Press releases on many of these wonderful alumni will be posted on the RHSP website

**Control Your Destiny**  
[www.reachhighscholars.org](http://www.reachhighscholars.org)

## More Good News

- Greg Sevinsky, General Manager of the Walmart Distribution Center in Raymond, was elected to our Board of Directors.
- Sarah Anderson, a teacher at PEA, joined as a second part-time Program Director (alongside Genny Moriarty).
- The RHS Class of '15 kept up the pace of recent years by sending five students to highly competitive colleges: Amanda Dupuis (St. Lawrence), Will Harmon (Dartmouth), Tom Mercier (Hobart), Nick Smith (Northeastern) and Brandon Zahler (Union).
- During 2011-2015, 6.2% of RHS graduates went to highly competitive colleges. Based on available information, only two NH high schools have done better.

## Support for a Broader Range of Students

There were several members of the RHS Class of '15, not otherwise active in RHSP, who took advantage of our SAT Boot Camps in the winter of '13-'14 and the fall of '14. The improvements in their official scores over a baseline test in the spring of '13 were significant. Most of them did not have well-formulated plans for post-secondary education, but invigorated by their SAT successes several of them applied to and will be attending two or four year colleges.

## Grantors to RHSP Get a Good Bang for Their Buck

Over the past seven years:

- Charitable institutions and individuals have contributed \$184,000 to RHSP and our summer enrichment partners (Brown, Dartmouth, Phillips Exeter and St. Paul's);
- Raymond students have received \$522,000 of aid from the summer enrichment partners;
- 29 RHS students have gone to Top-100 highly competitive colleges; most of whom have financial aid with small amounts of debt and need-based grants of up to \$52,000 per annum that, over four years results in a total value of over \$3.1 million
- Hence, cash contributions to RHSP and its partners have led to a **17X multiplier effect**.

RHSP's philosophy is that money should not be a roadblock to a great education. The best colleges have significant amounts of financial aid. We direct our resources toward helping RHS students to get through the starting gates.

## Save the Dates for Fall PSAT and SAT Boot Camps

This fall, RHSP will be sponsoring a PSAT Boot Camp for sophomores and juniors and an SAT Boot Camp for seniors, to be conducted by Academic Approach. The details will be emailed to students and parents in early August. PSAT prep classes will be on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, leading up to the test on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. SAT Prep classes will be on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, leading up to the test on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Hopefully, this will give some sense of the overall effort in which so 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.

With best wishes,



John F. McDaniels  
Chairman Reach High Scholars Program