



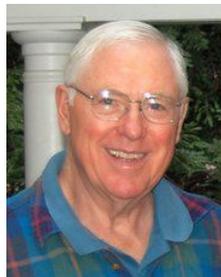
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Remarkable man seeks exceptional students



John Tyndall
RHS Class of 1952

Kim Tyndall • Thursday, 04 October, 2012

In a packed room at Raymond High School, I got my first introduction to John McDaniels and the Reach High Scholars program he created over the past 5 years for the young people of Raymond. He is giving back and the results are remarkable.

John's brainchild began in late 2007 with a look at Raymond student acceptance levels to higher education. Researching back to the class of 1950, he found that over the 57-year span only 16 students from Raymond had gained admission to top colleges and universities for their continuing education. He knew we could do better and decided to

take on the challenge. *How do you encourage students to reach high?*

In less than 5 years, the Reach High Scholars program has gone from a simple idea to a highly successful — and very unique — example of community involvement in the education of young people. RHS students began to focus on and apply to top schools. The results speak for themselves. In each of the graduating classes of 2011 and 2012, six students reached high and were accepted to top schools around the country:

Student	RHS Year	College
Michelle Gilbert	2008	St. Lawrence
Charles Martin	2009	Rensselaer
Karry Ann Belanger	2010	Wheaton
Kristina Francoeur	2011	Skidmore
Jesse Hardman	2011	Skidmore
Samantha Harmon	2011	Dartmouth
Jacob Leavitt	2011	Brown
Jonathan Lemay	2011	Skidmore
Ami Neeper	2011	Holy Cross
Charles De Benedetto	2012	Hobart & William Smith
Shaun Gallagher	2012	Lafayette
Ashley Lord	2012	Dartmouth
Joseph Morin	2012	Rensselaer
Abbey Schlangen	2012	Trinity
Collin Spinney	2012	Hamilton

There is no magic in this program. The students in Raymond are talented and motivated. They receive a top-notch education in our schools and always have. John knew his challenge would be to encourage, focus, and support the students and their families, so he set out to do just that. *Reach High* says it all. Set your goals above where you think you can go and work to make it happen.

However, John stresses that achievement is not a spontaneous attitude change. Students and parents must take initiative. Success takes work. His program is now reaching deeper into the school system and providing opportunities to middle school students who will reach high

HIGHLIGHTS

Front Page

- Remarkable man seeks exceptional students
- Raymond Volunteers to be commended

Town News

- Planning Board informed that part of Raymond is to be covered by EPA MS4 urbanized designation
- Raymond Joint Boards Meeting pleased with presentations

NH News

- Troops To Trucks helps veterans get Commercial Driver Licenses
- DES to host workshop on revisions to Air Permitting and Volatile Organic Compound Technology Rules
- DES announces opening of Air Monitoring Station in Londonderry
- Latest NH employment data

News of our Reps

- Guinta: Tying paychecks to performance on sequestration

Dudley-Tucker Library

- NH reads Edgar Allan Poe in October 2012

Church News

- Try your hand at beading!

RCFY

- Four large boxes of medication and many, many thanks!

For Kids

- Troop 3 at the Deerfield Fair

RCTV Weekly Schedule

- Channel 22 Schedule for 9/28/12 to 10/4/12
- Channel 13 Schedule for 9/28/12 to 10/4/12

Weekly Challenge

- Can you identify this photo location?

Local Business News

- Hannaford products affected by peanut butter recall

Non-Profit News

- Hannaford hot dogs support United Way

Health News

- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Raymond High School

- Homecoming 2012 characters

Editorials

- State of the newspaper at four months

Letters

- Support for Voter Identification law

Heard Around Town

- Footing around at the Variety Show!

Volunteers Needed

- Come help Raymond Arts set up the Haunted House!



Raymond, NH
Currently | Hourly Info | >15 Days

Cloudy
62°F
RealFeel®: 61°F
Winds: Calm

Your Forecast

- Tod** 67°/53°
Early rain;
- Tom** 76°/55°
Partly cloudy
- Sat** 72°/46°
Becoming
- Sun** 57°/40°
Patchy clouds



Weather Forecast | Weather Maps

- Once in a while
- Nope
- What is the Bulletin Board?

vote

This Week's Poll

Would you be willing to help with Raymond's 250th anniversary celebration?

- Yes (send me your name!)
- No
- Thinking about it...

vote

This Week's Poll

How long have you lived in Raymond, NH?

- Born and bred here.
- Moved here when I was little.
- 30 years or more
- 20 to 30 years
- 10 to 20 years
- 5 to 10 years
- 5 years or less

vote

school with an attitude that they can be —and will be— the "best of the best" in their generation.

Middle school students can participate in a number of opportunities for enhanced education with the Harkness program and with summer school programs. It is never too early to interest your children in stretching their experience.

All about the Benjamins

Many parents reading this article may be skeptical, knowing they do not have the financial resources to provide their children with these opportunities. John spent a good portion of the Reach High Scholars presentation trying to assure families that if your child makes the effort and chooses to reach high, there are monies available.

One of the key jobs of the Reach High Scholars program is to support parents in their search for ways to give their children these opportunities. "A great education or experience is within reach of any student who goes after it. With the support of caring parents and community members, a great student should have every opportunity to excel. There are so many ways." John recounted the financial status of the organization during the meeting. Reach High Scholars has piqued the interest of a number of businesses and foundations who find that this type of program has excellent return on investment and have donated to offset the tuition for summer programs.

Community involvement makes this happen

The Reach High Scholars program has clearly demonstrated that it can make a difference. John works closely with Deirdre Doyle, an English teacher at Raymond High School, who meets after school each Monday with the 30+ students who are active in the Reach High Scholars program at the school. These students are supporting one another as they explore opportunities to advance their education in ways that will get noticed by the top colleges and universities around the country.

John is also looking for help from community members who have skills that can enhance the reach of the program. The organization needs some structure to make it sustainable and less dependent on the work of a few. Please take a look at the website at <http://www.reachhighscholars.org/index.html> and then contact [John](#) or [Deirdre](#) to learn how you might help.

This program puts Raymond, NH on the map in an exceptional way. Students who have participated to date are reaching out to support those students who are currently exploring their futures and reaching high. Peer support goes a long way in inspiring others to reach a little higher.

Get involved...early and often...for your own children's future and for the future of the community.

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