

Reach High Scholars Program
P.O. Box 982
Raymond, N.H. 03077



December 8, 2019

Dear Friends:

We want to update you on our progress at the end of another busy year in the Reach High Scholars Program.

Outstanding College Results in 2019

The nine graduating seniors who remained RHSP members in good standing had very successful college outcomes: they received generous financial aid that included over \$1.3 million of scholarships and need-based grants; in some cases of over \$200,000 per student.

These students are attending Colby, Emerson, Hobart & Wm. Smith, Union and two each at Wheaton and UNH - unusual results for a small New Hampshire high school with a graduating class of just 89 kids.

Challenging Demographic Environment.

High school populations in Northern New England are continuing to shrink, with the result that towns are constrained in their ability to provide educations that will help their youth compete in the fast-changing environment driven by technology. Declining numbers of students lead to reductions of important resources including faculty and honors and advanced placement courses that are essential to maintaining a high level of academic excellence.

State governments have budget limitations that prevent their filling the funding gaps or implementing necessary changes. Moreover, consolidating schools to create critical masses of students is exacerbated by the proud independence of New Hampshire communities, many of which predate the creation of the nation.

RHSP plays a key role in compensating for these factors. Despite the demographic challenges, the greatest hope for change is at the local level. Our initiatives (Raymond Roundtables, PSAT and SAT Boot Camps, summer boarding academic enrichment programs, college visits and counseling on the admission process at top colleges) are resources supplemental to those provided by the local schools.

Buy-in comes gradually by parents, students and members of the community appreciating the value added by our initiatives. There is increased awareness of the affordable resources at top colleges that had been underutilized in the past, frequently due to lack of a roadmap for how to get there from a small NH town.

Outreach to Neighboring Communities

There is a compelling instinct to expand RHSP to neighboring towns, a step that, done correctly, would require additional human and financial resources. We have taken a first step. Raymond Roundtables, our 12-day summer academic enrichment program for rising 8th-10th graders, had declining enrollment in recent years in line with the overall student population trend. In 2018 it had 22 students and this year there were 33, with 11 from the nearby towns of Derry, Epping, Fremont and Sandown. Although this is easier in the summer vacation months, we will try to build on the experience.

Control Your Destiny
www.reachhighscholars.org

Ten Years of the Reach High Scholars Program: Fast Facts

- 308 students have participated in Raymond Roundtables.
- 338 students have participated in RHSP's PSAT and SAT Boot Camps, which offer more standardized test prep than is available at any other public high school in Northern New England.
- 172 RHSP members have done boarding summer academic enrichment programs (typically for two to five weeks) at Brown, Dartmouth, Phillips Exeter and St. Paul's. They had financial aid of over \$862,000 (26% of which was reimbursed by RHSP and supporters).
- In the past 11 years, 53 RHSP members have gone to highly competitive (top 3%) colleges. Most of them have received scholarships and grants of up to \$69,000 per year that, over four years, will have a total value of \$7.1 million; and they are graduating with modest debt.
- RHSP and its summer enrichment partners have had contributions from charitable institutions and individuals of about \$360,000. This has led, in the form of the scholarships and grants from colleges to our students, to a **20X multiplier effect**.
- Colleges attended by RHSP students include: Bard (2), Boston College, Brown, Carleton, Colby, Connecticut College, Dartmouth (3), Hamilton (3), Hobart & William Smith (6), Holy Cross (4), Lafayette, Mount Holyoke, Northeastern (2), Rensselaer Polytechnic (3), St. Lawrence (3), Skidmore (3), Trinity (2), UNH (16), Univ. of Rochester, Union (3), Wheaton (5) and Worcester Polytechnic (6).
- RHSP has had 32 students attend highly competitive colleges in classes that graduated through 2019 and 28 (88%) graduated in four years (compared to a 40% graduation rate from all U.S. four-year colleges).
- RHSP alumni who have finished college have gone on to impressive careers. Four are working on or have completed Ph. D degrees (one of whom is now a Professor of Astronomy at RPI). Two are pursuing Masters' degrees and one is in law school. Two were the first and second in the history of Raymond to receive Fulbright Scholarships to study and work abroad. Several are working in high-tech companies, including Amazon, Athenahealth, BAE Systems and IBM Watson.

RSHP Resources

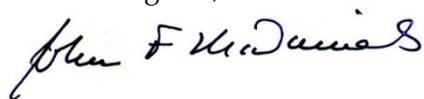
RHSP's philosophy is that money should not be a roadblock to a great education: top colleges have plenty of financial aid. We use our resources to help students get through the starting gates.

Our operating expenses are covered primarily by the Board of Directors. Other donors support the boot camps, Roundtables and college visits, which have shortfalls due to our concessionary pricing and generous need-based aid. Some donors also give directly to the summer partners to support 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 (i) a check sent to: P.O. 982, Raymond, NH 03077, (ii) bank wire transfer (by emailing me for RHSP's account details) or (iii) or via PayPal or a credit card by clicking [here](#).

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 control their academic destiny and reach higher in pursuit of education.

Warmest regards,



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