



December 10, 2021

Dear Friends:

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

The Environment

In the 2020-21 school year, due to the pandemic, we had practically no access to the school buildings and dealt with students and parents by phone and virtual means. We are now operating inside the schools, but the statewide resurgence of Covid in the fall to a high level has had a demoralizing effect on students and teachers.

A further handicap has been the continuing shrinkage of school populations in Northern New England, resulting in towns being constrained in their ability to help their youth compete in the fast-changing environment. Declining numbers of students can lead to reductions of faculty and honors and advanced placement courses that are essential to maintaining a high level of academic excellence.

Ten years ago, Raymond High School graduated 111 students, including several members of RHSP who went to Ivy League and other highly resourced colleges (“HRCs”). Two years ago, there were 89 graduates, and in 2021 there were just 66, with far fewer students going to HRCs. Moreover, in the past two years, COVID has inspired more RHSP students to opt for the good resources available at the University of New Hampshire close to home.

Consolidating schools near one another to create critical masses of students is an evident solution. But this is stymied by the proud independence of New Hampshire communities, many of which predate the creation of the nation.

The Reach High Scholars Program works hard to compensate for these factors. The greatest hope for change starts at the local level. Our initiatives are valuable resources supplementing those provided by the schools. These start with Reach High Roundtables, which uses Phillips Exeter’s “Harkness Method” of teaching in a student-centered seminar style around a table, for rising 8th, 9th and 10th graders. This is followed in the high school years by PSAT and SAT boot camps, summer boarding academic enrichment programs, college visits, and counseling on the admission process at HRCs.

One bright light is that we continue to have increased buy-in by parents, students and members of the communities who appreciate the value added by our initiatives. There is also more awareness of the affordable resources provided by HRCs that have been under-accessed in the past, primarily due to lack of a roadmap for how to get there from small New Hampshire towns.

Outreach to Neighboring Communities

We have made our first formal move to incorporate another town into our program. An agreement has been signed with the Epping, NH, School District, allowing us to operate within their schools. At a recent induction ceremony, 16 Epping students were admitted into RHSP, along with 25 from Raymond. Our Program Directors are now meeting regularly with students in both towns and the Epping students will be included in all our ongoing initiatives. The program currently has 78 members.

We have a strategy for expanding to other communities. It starts with inviting their students to participate in Reach High Roundtables and our PSAT and SAT Boot Camps. In recent years, we have had several students from neighboring towns join these initiatives. School districts can be brought more completely into the fold after the interest of their families has been sufficiently whetted.

Change Is Creating Great Opportunities

The pandemic created needs for abrupt changes in the ways that we lived, communicated, worked, traveled, and dealt with the need for life-saving medical remedies. Technology rose to the occasion, with the invention and delivery of vaccines to control the virus; groceries and other essentials arriving daily to our doorsteps; and Zoom replacing the need to travel long distances for short meetings.

The essence of our approach is to imbue students with educational tools that emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving to enable them to thrive in this era of dramatic change. Our initiatives equip them to be accepted at top colleges on an affordable basis and to thrive while there. And there are high-paying jobs when they graduate, several of which are mentioned in the Fast Facts, attached. In many cases, the companies or the nature of the work did not exist when those students were in high school.

RHSP Resources

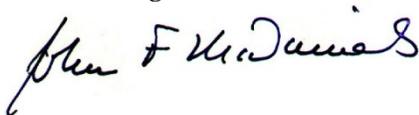
Our philosophy is that money should not be a roadblock to a great education: top colleges have plenty of financial aid. We use our resources to help students get through the starting gates.

Our operating expenses are covered primarily by the Board of Directors. Other donors are needed to support Reach High Roundtables, the boot camps, and college visits, which have shortfalls due to our income-based pricing. 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 pressing 'control' and 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 our students control their academic destiny and reach higher in their educational pursuits.

Warmest regards,



John F. McDaniels
Chairman Reach High Scholars Program

Reach High Scholars Program Outcomes Achieved Since 2010

Pre-College Outcomes

- 357 students have participated in Raymond Roundtables.
- 353 students have participated in RHSP's PSAT and SAT Boot Camps.
- 182 RHSP members have attended 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—28 percent of which was contributed by RHSP and supporters.

College Outcomes

- We are proud to say that 114 RHSP members have gone to four-year colleges. Fifty-six of them went to highly resourced colleges ("HRCs") among the top 3 percent of schools in the country; compared to 18 who had gone to similar colleges in the prior 90 years of RHS. Twenty-five others have gone to UNH.
- The 56 students who attended HRCs had modest debt and need-based scholarships and grants of up to \$69,000 per year that, over four years, will have a total value of over \$7.6 million.
- Those 56 students were 6% of all RHS graduates during 2011-21. Based on available information, only two NH high schools have sent higher percentages to HRCs.
- Colleges attended by RHSP students include: Babson, 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 Poly (3), St. Lawrence (4), Skidmore (3), Trinity (2), UNH (25), University of Rochester, Union (3), Wheaton (6) and Worcester Poly (6).
- The HRCs emphasized by RHSP have high (85-95%) 4-year graduation rates. Forty-one RHSP members have attended those colleges in classes that graduated through 2021. Thirty-eight (93%) graduated in four years. Most were from low- or middle-income families that have paid not more than \$10-20,000 per year and the students, on average, have less than \$30,000 of debt. In contrast, the national average for college graduation in four years is about 40%.

Post-College Outcomes

- RHSP alumni who have finished college have gone on to impressive careers. Four are working on or have completed doctorate degrees, one of whom is now a Professor of Astronomy at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Two are pursuing master's degrees. Two were the first students 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, Fidelity Investments, Google, GrubHub, Hexcel, IBM Watson, MathWorks and Moderna.

Return on Investment to Donors

- Cash contributions from individuals and charitable institutions to RHSP and its summer enrichment partners to-date have totaled approximately \$500,000. Of that amount, \$238,000 has gone to the summer partners and \$262,000 to RHSP. The \$7.6 million of scholarships and grants received by our 56 scholars attending HRCs is a 15X multiple of the \$500,000, a wonderful return on the investment of our donors.