For immediate release
Contact information:
Scott Power
NHCUC
Ext. 300

**College Access Convention**

**Concord, NH –** (Nov 9, 2018) Back by popular demand, several hundred underrepresented high school students from Monadnock Regional High School, Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative High School, Fall Mountain Regional High School, ConVal Regional High School, Stevens High School, and Nashua's North and South High Schools will attend the 16th Annual College Access Convention at Keene State College on Friday, November 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The convention kicks off a larger campaign for the New Hampshire College and University Council, NH high schools, GEAR UP NH and the statewide NH Scholars Initiative hosted at the NHCUC. The NH Scholars Initiative encourages students to pursue rigorous academic coursework to better prepare them for college and the workplace. GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education whose mission is to significantly increase the number of underrepresented students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

This year, more than 1,500 students around New Hampshire will participate in these regional conventions. In recent years many of whom took what they learned and were accepted to college. The convention's goal is to encourage New Hampshire's underrepresented and first generation students to pursue their higher education studies in New Hampshire. Registration is free for students.

Participant students will attend panel presentations, a financial aid workshop, and will take part in a campus tour to help them pave the way to college. Many of these students will be immersed in a college atmosphere for the first time.

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This is the second regional convention hosted by NHCUC this fall. A convention in Manchester was held in mid-October. The convention will offer tips on applying for financial aid and guidance on what college admission officials are looking for in an application. Several college students will also lead a question and answer session on what life is really like on a college campus.

"By bringing high schools and colleges together, we establish a teamwork approach to make sure students know they can do whatever they set their minds to. We simply provide a roadmap to that destination," explains Scott Power, Director of NH Scholars.

As the fastest growing segment of the state's population, minorities are poised to play a critical role in New Hampshire's competitive edge. This convention provides a platform for hundreds of underrepresented high school students looking to earn a college degree and continue into the workforce of the future.

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*About NHCUC:*

NHCUC is a multi-purpose higher education consortium of the state's higher education institutions working together on collaborative programs. Its sister organization, Campus Compact for New Hampshire, is a statewide higher education consortium focused on promoting service learning and civic engagement. NH Scholars is a project of the NHCUC. Funding for the College Access Convention is provided by GEAR UP New Hampshire as it supports technical assistance to high schools across the state.