

NH Forum on the Future:

Focused on NH's Future Workforce

Over the past three years the New Hampshire Forum on the Future has held a series of breakfast gatherings on emerging trends, challenges and forces shaping our state. If you have participated in these breakfasts you know how valuable they are and we invite you to attend our fall kickoff this September.

Founded in 2006 by the NH College & University Council and the NH High Technology Council, The New Hampshire Forum on the Future's mission is to bring a sharp focus to the forces shaping New Hampshire's future with facts and original research from recognized experts. The Forum brings together leaders in higher education, business and public policy to consider timely information on a wide array of emerging topics. Thus, the Forum serves as a cornerstone for examining NH's future.

We helped sponsor a Granite State Poll of 506 citizens who collectively identified "educational opportunity and quality healthcare" as the top two issues likely to impact New Hampshire's future. Other key issues included the economy, lifestyle, and environment. Since that poll, it's fair to speculate that the economy has likely vaulted into the top spot.

Last year we produced a report on the status of higher education and its possible impacts. One finding has implications for our future workforce and should cause all of us to pause: NH's older workers are more likely to hold a college degree than our younger workers. In other words, the average 60 year old in New Hampshire has more education than the average 30 year old. That trend is a potential major economic disadvantage and puts us at risk of having less capability to compete with other states and on the global stage. We all need to be concerned and do whatever we can to sustain New Hampshire's economic and cultural advantages. If we don't, who will?

So what else are we doing? The Forum has developed two new websites – www.InternsNH.com and www.CareersNH.com - connecting college students and graduates with internship and first career opportunities. We will participate in an initiative by the NH Workforce Opportunity Council and the National Governor's Association to target business sectors in NH that need a boost to grow, create jobs and better train workers. And, we are working on several other initiatives.

The NH Forum owes sincere thanks for sustained support from The NHHEAF Network Organizations, and our newest sponsors, Saint Mary's Bank and the New Hampshire International Trade Center. We are building a strong base and are interested in talking with others as we grow.

We encourage you to get involved with the New Hampshire Forum on the Future.

Visit our website at www.nhfuture.org or contact either of us directly. The future is ours to shape.



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