



Reaching Higher NH Welcomes Karen Scolforo, PhD, as Executive Director

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CONCORD, NH (August 17, 2020) -- Reaching Higher New Hampshire (RHNH) announced today that Dr. Karen M. Scolforo, recent past president of Castleton University (Vermont State College System), will assume the role of Executive Director of the organization, effective September 1, 2020. The mission of RHNH, a non-profit organization established in 2015, is to provide all New Hampshire children with the opportunity to prepare for college, for immediate careers, and for the challenges and opportunities of life in the 21st century, by serving as a public education policy and community engagement resource for New Hampshire families, educators, and elected officials.

"I am honored to be named Executive Director for Reaching Higher New Hampshire. When I first saw the position post, I was immediately drawn to the noble work of serving students, parents, educators, and elected officials across the state, providing community engagement resources, and presenting research data to inform policy discussions and decisions. As a former New Hampshire teacher, I am committed to a strong public school system and a responsible approach to equitable practices. I am extremely impressed with the Reaching Higher New Hampshire team, and I cannot wait to join forces in service to our greater communities. I look forward to Reaching Higher along side our community partners, business leaders, and government officials for the betterment of New Hampshire."

The decision to hire Dr. Scolforo was unanimously approved by the board of directors, who cited her strong background in education leadership at the college level, her experience as a teacher in New Hampshire public schools, and her notable successes in fundraising.

Tom Rath, Co-chair and founding member of RHNH and attorney at Rath, Young and Pignatelli, applauded the choice: "Reaching Higher New Hampshire has become an important participant in the dialogue about public education in NH, a dialogue that has grown in scope and significance. As our new Executive Director, Karen Scolforo brings a distinguished, accomplished perspective that will enhance RHNH's ability to make meaningful and insightful contributions to New Hampshire's public education discussion. Karen's career has been centered around maximizing the impact and importance of quality educational opportunity for all. We are delighted to welcome her to RHNH and to the broader NH community."

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challenges and opportunities of life in 21st century NH, by serving as a public education policy and community engagement resource for New Hampshire.

Selected quotes about Karen Scolforo:

“Karen brings a zeal to public education and a broad gamut of organizational skills that will help her and staff bring RHNH to the next level.” **Alan Reische, Co-chair and founding member of Reaching Higher New Hampshire and attorney at Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green PA**

“We are delighted that Dr. Scolforo has chosen to bring her many talents to Reaching Higher New Hampshire. Her interest in education spans decades and will further enrich the work of the organization moving forward.” --**Selma Naccach-Hoff, RHNH Board member and English Dept. Chair Emerita, Manchester High School Central**

“The Board of Reaching Higher New Hampshire is confident that Karen has the skills and the high energy necessary to do the important work of protecting and enhancing public education in our state and to lay the foundation for the long-term health and strength of the organization.” --**Kassandra Ardinger, RHNH Board member and Trustee of the University System of New Hampshire**

“As a life-long educator, I’m delighted to welcome Dr. Karen M. Scolforo as the executive director of our organization. Karen’s extensive professional experience, which began as a middle school teacher in NH and most recently as president of a public college in Vermont, makes her uniquely qualified to lead RHNH.” – **Mark Joyce, founding member of RHNH and former ED of NH School Administrators Association**