



CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN NEWSLETTER

ISSUE N.10 | WINTER 2024 | VOLUME 30

www.nhsaa.org

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

by Dr. Mark MacLean | NHSAA Executive Director

The first 8-months as the NHSAA's Executive Director have been incredibly rewarding, positive, and humbling. The Association strives to be responsive to members, provide timely and engaging PD, and lift voices in support of public education. The cohesiveness and unity of our members is critical as we continue to be a credible and compelling voice in education leadership.

NHSAA regional meetings, statewide meetings, Executive Board meetings, PD sessions, NHSAA committee meetings, and State Board of Education meetings have all highlighted the diverse, innovative, and impressive skills, passion, and commitment to public education found among the NHSAA members.

It is truly inspiring to witness. Thank you all for what you do in service to your students, learning communities, and public education. We're definitely better together!

The first 8-months have also brought many changes to the NHSAA. Our new association management system (AMS), MemberClicks, offers streamlined PD registrations, new communication/connection opportunities, and a brand-new website (<https://www.nhsaa.org>).

At the office, we're streamlining practices and processes while bringing a thoughtful business perspective to our operations. Future projects include (but are not limited to) modernizing the EDjobsNH platform, innovating our GSLA program (Cohort 9 applications are now available), thinking differently about our PD offerings, adding new member benefits, and continuing to build coalitions and connections in support of our members and public education.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Association's Executive Director.

All the best,

Mark



➤ Page 1

Executive
Director's
Message

➤ Page 2

NH Superintendent
of the Year

➤ Page 4

NHSAA
Directors'
Messages

➤ Page 6

NHSAA News

➤ Page 7

2024 CMTC

➤ Page 10

Business Partners

Dr. Kimberly Rizzo-Saunders

NH'S SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

by Ms. Rosie Ioannidis | NHSAA Executive Assistant

The New Hampshire School Administrators Association has been recognizing impactful New Hampshire education leaders since 1941, that receive the NH Superintendent of the Year award. To qualify for this award, an educator must excel in serving their school districts and communities, while demonstrating remarkable leadership skills.

This year, Dr. Kimberly Rizzo-Saunders is the winner of the NH Superintendent of the Year award and has also been named a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year award. NHSAA reached out to her, in those special moments that honor the state of NH, for an interview.

Q: The nomination letters received at NHSAA portray a highly motivated educator, who actively collaborates with colleagues and empowers women in her community, but on top of all strives for the well-being and rights of children. Who do you draw this energy from and who is your inspiration?

A: I have worked intentionally to create a team of highly collaborative skilled individuals who partner with me in the best interest of the students of ConVal and the students of New Hampshire. The ConVal Leadership Team provides the support, energy, and skill base to support moving the work forward and always reminds me of what we need to accomplish and why.



Q: What does this recognition mean to you?

A: Being recognized by one's peers is a tremendous honor. It is very validating of the hard work that ConVal has been involved in and the leadership role that they have taken from the classroom to the Board room in the State of New Hampshire.

**"MY TEAM REMINDS ME OF
WHAT WE NEED TO
ACCOMPLISH AND WHY"**

**Kimberly
Rizzo-
Saunders**

Q: What is your purpose and how do you stay dedicated to it?

A: Advocating for students across New Hampshire and equitable opportunities for all. I stay dedicated by remembering that a high-quality education is one of the most important foundational tools that we give citizens in our democratic republic.

Kimberly-Rizzo Saunders

"A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOUNDATIONAL TOOLS THAT WE GIVE CITIZENS IN OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC."

Q: Could you reference the accomplishments that you believe have contributed to winning this award? (as key points)

- A:**
- The success of working with my colleagues across the state to bring the issue of funding an adequate education to the forefront of conversations at the professional, political, and judiciary levels in New Hampshire.
 - Working in the District to propose develop and implement a Pre-K for All model that targets our most fragile students and is showing remarkable outcomes.
 - Being willing to be the face of opposition to those who threaten the health and viability of public schools (they wrote that in the letter anyway).
 - Relentlessly pursuing equity and resources to enact a high-quality education for all students in New Hampshire.
 - Creating the environment to empower leaders in ConVal to imagine, create, and implement high-yield community partnerships across all areas of the organization.

Q: How do you feel those accomplishments will benefit the ConVal School District and New Hampshire's public schools?

A: Providing the above will result in better outcomes for students in ConVal and across the state, improving not only the quality of education but also the quality of life for individuals and communities.

Q: What contributed to your decision to become an educator?

A: Many things eventually pushed me toward being an educator, I enjoyed working with students and I believe that one of the fundamental building blocks of a healthy democracy is a well-educated electorate.



Q: As you look at the future of education, 5 years out, what is the most significant 'disruptor' that system leaders should be preparing for right now?

A: We must learn how to leverage AI to provide more meaningful educational opportunities for our students.

To read the Superintendent of the year Press Release announcement, by our business partner John Guilfoil PR, click on the JGPR logo (right).



NHSAA DIRECTORS' MESSAGES



"We are better together" - a simple yet powerful statement that holds true for today's educational community and echoed in our NHSAA Executive Director's message this year. New Hampshire's public schools are facing unprecedented challenges. While some aspects of our work will continue, NH educators are doing their best to meet the emerging needs of their students. Even though we don't know what the future holds, we do know that we are stronger when we work together towards a common goal of learning for all.

Every student deserves equal access to support and resources that can help them succeed. Districts implementing frameworks like Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B), Understanding by Design (UBD), and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) recognize the power of these tools in helping teachers design effective and engaging lessons for their students. By starting with the end goal in mind and prioritizing student learning objectives, teachers can create meaningful, relevant, and accessible learning experiences for all students. Additionally, teachers can proactively address the diverse needs of their students by providing flexible options.

Educational support staff, teachers, and leaders play a vital role in supporting our NH students' diverse academic and personal growth. In addition to efforts within the general education learning environments, special education programs, 504 plans, resources for English language learners, and support for those in foster care or involved with the court system are priorities. Other services may also be provided for students as determined by the local educational teams. Due to critical staffing shortages, parents are beginning to understand the need for creative programming and unique solutions to these shortages. Indeed, "we are better together" and our entire educational community must remain committed to providing our students what they need to succeed in school and in the future. Thank you for all you do to support each other and your NH public school communities. Indeed, you are "Champions for Children."

A big thank you to our Business Partner, Primex, for sponsoring SSC memberships.



A big thank you to our Business Partners Gray Consulting & Therapy and Maxim Healthcare Staffing for generously sponsoring catering for our events.



GSLA, the Future, and Legislation



by Mr. Jerry Frew | NHSAA Associate Executive Director



**Thanks to all
for the
support and
your
unwavering
dedication to
the
organization.**

It is a great honor and privilege to be able to serve our members by contributing to this newsletter. This piece provides an opportunity to acknowledge your incredible efforts, express gratitude for the opportunity to serve you, and encourage you to take care of yourselves and each other.

One way that we can take care of each other is to continue to grow our own through the support of the Granite State Leadership Academy. The GSLA program in coordination with SNHU has gained a strong reputation for developing tomorrow's systems leaders. Earlier this fall, we participated in the program review with the NHED and received high praise for the quality of this partnership.

We can now proudly proclaim that over 50% of the program completed to date now occupies seats in district leadership positions. It is through your support of aspiring leaders that this program continues to build leadership capacity in our state.

What would a winter newsletter be without some mention of our legislature? Each week through our message from the Executive Director, and "This Week on North State Street," we attempt to keep you apprised of the legislative developments. Our thanks to the Legislative Committee under the leadership of Dr. Kimberly Rizzo-Saunders for their diligent efforts this year to help develop talking points, and offer expert testimony on a variety of issues facing our schools.

Please continue to work with your local representatives to help them understand the local impact of their decisions. The representatives won't always buy what you are selling, but it is essential they understand that our local school districts- their constituents- are impacted financially by every decision that they make.

"Indeterminable Costs" doesn't mean there is no local cost. Each of us owns the responsibility of creating that awareness, otherwise, many of us are blind to the actual local impact and only vote as leadership directs them.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and please reach out with any questions.

Think spring!

Jerry



4 NHSAA news stories you shouldn't miss

by Ms. Rosie Ioannidis | NHSAA Executive Assistant

EDjobsNH.com is changing!

NHSAA's job posting website, EDjobsNH.com, is changing!



About 15 years after its first release, the website was evaluated and is being upgraded to what is going to be a high-performing recruiting website. It is adapting a minimalistic, modern, and playful design and brand identity, that is backed by contemporary-era functionalities, UI/UX principles, but also relevant content, with the end users in mind.

Scan the barcode (right) to access the website, and make sure to revisit in September to see the exciting new launch!



Membership management and event registrations

NHSAA has launched a new platform for seamless membership account management.

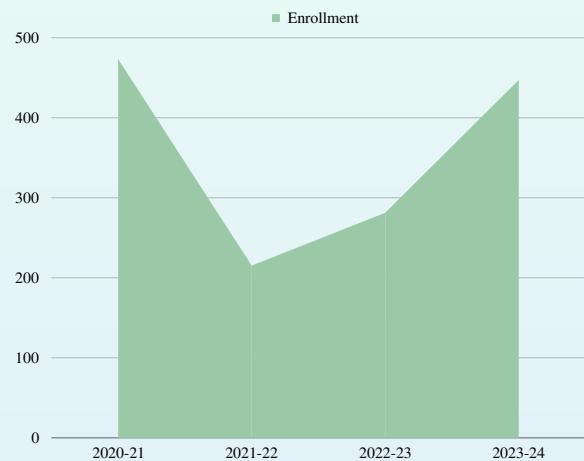
If you haven't already, create your account by selecting the membership you are interested in joining and entering your work e-mail on the page that pops up. Please use the below barcode to see your membership options.



This step is crucial for the organization, allowing you to conveniently register for events and, most importantly, to renew your memberships. Need assistance with setting up your account? Email Rose at rose@nhsaa.org to help you get started.

NHSAA Membership enrollments are on the rise

NHSAA experienced a decrease in membership enrollments during the pandemic. We appreciate your ongoing support and active involvement as we continue to transition to the post-COVID era.



New logo!

NHSAA introduces a new logo that represents the organization with a touch of New Hampshire. The logo distinctly depicts the Old Man of the Mountain and the outline of NH. Additionally, it includes a graduation hat that highlights the educational focus of the Association and serves as a homage to the legacy logo.





~ 2023 CMTC ~



AI, learning, curiosity, and awe-filled moments

by Ms. Rosie Ioannidis | NHSAA Executive Assistant

The Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference, casually referred to as CMTC, is New Hampshire's largest technology conference in education. It is held yearly, to equip and inspire educators with relevant knowledge to benefit the students of New Hampshire, in public education. This year's event took place at the Manchester downtown DoubleTree by Hilton, the week of November 27 to 30. It is co-organized by NHSTE - the New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education and NHSAA, and co-sponsored by NHCTO, NHASCD, and NHASP with support from our wonderful Solution Partners.

This year the event had pleasant surprises. The guests were greeted by an AI host, which was the work of the new Executive Director at NHSAA, Dr. Mark MacLean. The main theme was Artificial Intelligence and our keynote speaker, Dr. Caitlin Krause, presented to about 300 attendees, the purpose of finding the connection between virtual reality and wellbeing, and to find this balance in the classroom.

The audience was captivated by Caitlin's narratives, i.e., that of having a sense of awe and wonder. As described, when astronauts reach orbit, seeing Earth from space makes them change their perception of the world and creates a state of awe and wonder. That's because they see beyond the division of countries and start to feel more compassion for each other.

The CMTC attendance number surpassed that of last year with more NH educators having a keen interest in, and eagerness to welcome and utilize AI tools in their classrooms.

CMTC conferences inform educators about the latest technological innovations and make a great yearly networking event, with participation of some of the most tech-literate educators in the United States.

Do you enjoy attending CMTC events and learning the latest trends in technology? Follow the nhsaa.org and nhste.org websites to get special pricing for early CMTC event registrations, access to presentation materials, and much more.



Renaissance

Solution Partners @ CMTC 23

Did you meet one of our Business Partners or were looking for your next partnership? Scan the QR code for a complete contact list of our business partners.



"State of awe and wonder"

GSLA: COHORT 5 GRADUATION CEREMONY

by Ms. Rosie Ioannidis | NHSAA Executive Assistant

The 2023 Granite State Leadership Academy graduation ceremony, was held by the NHSAA at the Common Man in Concord, NH. Both NHSAA Directors, Jennifer Pomykato and Jerry Frew were there to celebrate and support Cohort 5's graduates.

As part of the GSLA journey, the NHSAA hosts an overnight spring retreat where each cohort has the opportunity to network, reflect on leadership practices, hear from experienced system leaders, and participate in collaborative discussions during the event. Each “fellow” receives a recognition plaque for graduating from the GSLA academy.

Congratulations to all GSLA V graduates!



Patrice Brown (SAU #66)
Dana Hilliard (SAU #56)
Lucy Canotas (SAU #106)
Julie Couch (SAU #79)

Ben Francisco (SAU #21)
Marcy Kelley (SAU #67)
Mark Pederson (SAU #106)
Donna Couture (SAU #21)

Nancy Michaud (SAU #56)
Chris Tebo (SAU #56)
Jessica Benson (SAU #95)

The enrollments have started for the 2025 GSLA / Cohort 9 program. For application questions, please contact Jerry Frew at jerry@nhsaa.org.

2023 "CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN" WINNERS

by Ms. Rosie Ioannidis | NHSAA Executive Assistant



Lakes Region
Nick Grenon



South Central
Kate Magrath



**Statewide and
Southeast winner**
Suzanne Weete



North Country
Melissa Shaw



Southwest
Jeff Trexler



Meet our Business Partners!

by Mrs. Kymra Kurinskas | NHSAA Event & Marketing Manager



** In each newsletter various Business Partners are spotlighted as a way to further acknowledge their value to system leaders and students in New Hampshire (and beyond). The NHSAA truly values our Business Partners and strives to provide meaningful, innovative, and authentic opportunities to connect with members, support public education, and appropriately promote their products and services.*

*** Our Longest Standing Partners - 15+ Years ***



Diamond Partner Since 2004

Industry: Healthcare Coverage for NH Public Employees

Contact: David Salois, Member Relations Representative,
dsalois@healthtrustnh.org

HealthTrust serves New Hampshire's public sector exclusively, providing high-quality, cost-effective medical, prescription drug, dental, short-and long-term disability and life coverages, and Benefit Advantage FSA and HRA services. Our plans include life-changing benefits such as the expert second opinions and treatment decision support provided through Grand Rounds, as well as innovative programs including LiveHealth Online, SmartShopper, Solera Diabetes Prevention Program, Slice of Life wellness program, and Life Resources Employer Assistance Program. HealthTrust's comprehensive plans, programs and services could mean better health, greater savings and peace of mind for you and your employees.

** Our Veteran Partners - 5 - 10 Years **

Platinum Partner Since 2018

Industry: Curriculum & Assessment

Contact: Julie Armitage, Educational Sales Consultant,
jarmitage@cainc.com

Curriculum Associates



Curriculum Associates publishes research-based, classroom-proven materials that provide flexible, focused, and targeted instruction to help educators effectively address the diverse levels and needs in every classroom. Our award-winning K-12 i-Ready Assessment & Instructional platform for both math & reading along with our highly rated K-8 Ready Common Core Math program are both designed to meet the Common Core State Standards to help schools across the country meet the rigorous demands of AYP.

Platinum Partner Since 2018

Industry: Curriculum & Assessment

Contact: Deb Farrington, Regional Sales Director,
deb.farrington@renaissance.com & Matt Brown, Account
Manager, matt.brown@renaissance.com

Renaissance

Renaissance is a global leader in assessment, reading, and math solutions for pre-K-12 schools and districts. We are committed to providing educators with insights and resources to accelerate growth and help all students build a strong foundation for success. Our portfolio includes solutions for assessment (Star Assessments and myIGDIs for Preschool); practice (Accelerated Reader, myON, Freckle, and Lalilo); data-driven insights (Schoolzilla); and teacher-facilitated instructional delivery (Nearpod).

* Up & Coming Partners - Under 5 Years *



Platinum Partner Since 2023

Industry: AV / Multimedia Systems

Contact: Jim Salvatore, Director of Sales - New England,
jsalvatore@ccsnewengland.com

CCS Presentation Systems – New England is a leading full-service, authorized commercial reseller of audio visual and multimedia presentation systems including audio systems, conferencing systems, digital signage, LED/LCD flat panel displays, projectors, screens, digital white boards, video walls, safety solutions, accessories, and services. Whether you want a simple installation or the most sophisticated, fully integrated audio visual, multimedia or video conferencing system – whether you need to outfit classrooms, conference rooms, boardrooms, or command centers, CCS has the expertise to serve you. Our services include AV Sales, AV System Integration, Design Engineering, Installation, Project Management and Training.



Platinum Partner Since 2023

Industry: Customized Animations / Communication

Contact: Dave Kartunen, Founder, dave@kartoonedu.com

kartoonEDU produces custom animated media for public schools to improve engagement with students, families, and communities about important topics. We focus on issues that public school districts have in common; this way, we can produce unique animations, featuring any district's messaging, branding, and mission, published through a fee-for-license model. This can be significantly less expensive than live video production. Animation is quicker to produce, better represents complex topics, and lasts longer than video. View our success stories and learn why we have been called "an outlier communication," able to engage a district's least engaged audiences in any language.



Gold Partner Since 2023

Industry: Accreditation & Assessment, Professional Learning

Contact: David Smith, Northeast Regional Director,
david.smith@cognia.org

We are a global network of enthusiastic educators here to help you strengthen your schools. Our holistic approach to continuous improvement encompasses accreditation and certification, assessment, professional learning, and customized improvement services. Like you, we want all students to have the opportunities that knowledge brings.

NHSA is BETTER with the support of our **Business Partners**. To become a Business Partner contact Kymra - kymra@nhsaa.org. Please be sure to check out our extensive list of partners who can provide assistance and resources across **ALL industries**.

<https://www.nhsaa.org/business-partners>

We appreciate **ALL** of our **Business Partners**!