

To All Supporters of the North Country Charter Academy,

On behalf of the North Country Charter Academy (NCCA) Board of Trustees and NCCA Staff, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the past school year. It is such a great pleasure for us to be able to reciprocate that support by providing to you a service that benefits your school and the entire North Country. NCCA's success is a direct reflection of our collaborative efforts to acknowledge the need for innovation and to provide non-traditional options for our youth. Our joint endeavor is helping to transform the traditional educational process.

It is a privilege for me to prepare this NCCA Annual Report. I believe it will clearly depict that NCCA not only met its mission and goals once again, but has exceeded them. I encourage you to review each section throughout this report. NCCA strives to be highly accountable for the services it provides and we are proud to share this information.

NCCA was very busy this year providing services to our students and participating in many events. NCCA served a total of 107 students this year. Thirty-five students graduated, with 17% of this group having been prior high school dropouts, 44 students are scheduled to return in the fall, 15 students returned to sending districts, six moved out of state, two moved out of the region and four students withdrew. If compared to last year's group, we had 26 less graduates, served six less students, but had 11 more students returning in the fall. In addition, there were no student incarcerations and we had two less withdrawals.

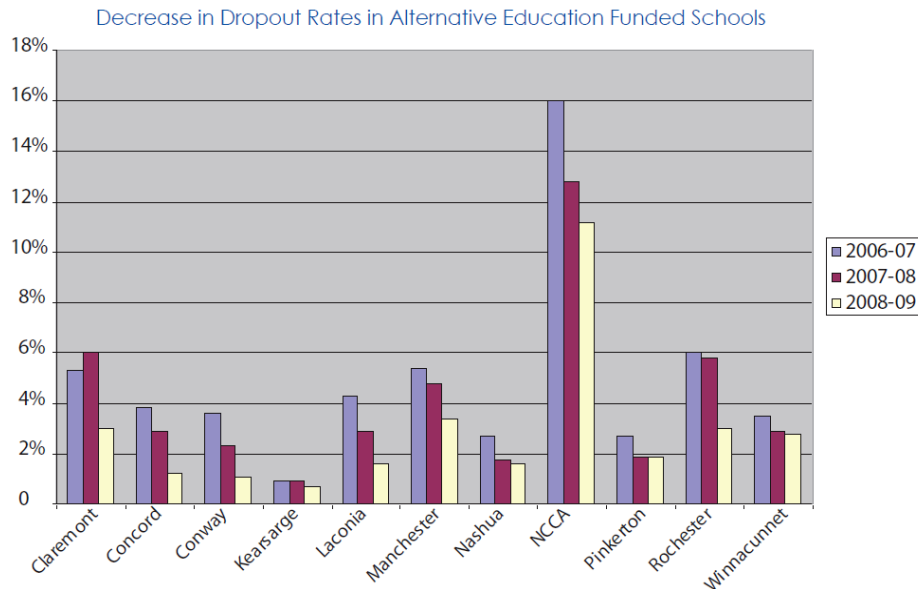
This year, 54% of our students received free or reduced lunch (an 8% increase from last year); 2% were pregnant or parenting (compared to 12% last year); and 9% were homeless (compared to 8% the previous year). This year NCCA's attendance rate was 92%, an increase of 1% from the year before.

Since NCCA opened its doors in 2004, it has graduated a total of 248 students. Sixty-six of these were prior high school dropouts.

NCCA continues to focus on meeting the individual needs of our students, while being very conscientious of accountability, maintaining high standards, and providing a superior education.

In addition to the positive impact we are having regionally, our supporters should be very proud of the impact we are having state-wide. This year NCCA received the New Hampshire Dropout Prevention and Recovery Oversight Council's 2010 Annual Report and we were delighted to have viewed the following graph included in the report:

Out of the 11 programs funded through Alternative Education, NCCA had the greatest impact in the state of New Hampshire. For the past three years NCCA has reduced the state's dropout rates as seen below:



On June 5, 2011, NCCA held its 7th Graduation Ceremony which was supported by the Littleton Chamber of Commerce at the historical Littleton Opera House. It was a perfect site to gather our 35 graduates and their 400 guests. The 2011 ceremony may be seen by accessing the following website: www.latvchannel2.com. I would like to thank all of the students, parents, families, and area businesses for assisting us in raising \$1,962.56. This support was a tremendous help in defraying our graduation expenses.

Some other highlights from this year include the following:

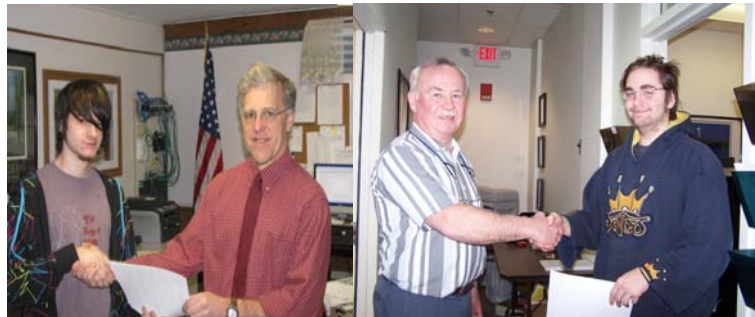
❖ **Governor's Summit on High School Graduation**

On December 13th the NH Department of Education held its third Governor's Summit to address the topic of high school graduation and its relationship to the current dropout rate. The theme was: "What New Hampshire Can Do To Achieve Zero Dropouts by 2012". NCCA was invited to attend and actively participate. An NCCA student, Jamie Sargent, participated in a student panel and Lisa Lavoie, NCCA Principal, was the moderator of this panel.



(From left to right: Commissioner Barry, NH Department of Education, Jamie Sargent, NCCA Student from Northumberland School District, NH Department of Education School Board Members: Daphne A. Kenyon, Ph. D., and Fredrick J. Bramante, Jr.

- ❖ **It was a tough budget year for everyone in the State of New Hampshire.** This year many of our students sent letters to New Hampshire Senators seeking support for the charter school and Alternative Education funding. One student also sent a letter to our United States Senator, Kelly Ayotte. Senator Ayotte responded promptly to the student. Senator Ayotte was NCCA's 2007 Graduation Keynote Speaker. Student letters may be viewed in the Student Support section of this report



(From left to right: Jason Dreyer, NCCA Student from White Mountains Regional School District, Mr. Kleinschrodt, NCCA Center Director, Mr. Hicks, NCCA Teacher, James Laniefsky from Linwood School District.

- ❖ **NCCA presented its school program and best practices on many occasions:**
 - NCCA presented at the North Country Professional Development Day that was organized by North Country Education Services. We offered two sessions entitled, "NCCA - A successfully proven non-traditional rural Middle/High School designed to reduce dropout rates and increase dropout recovery".
 - All NCCA staff attended the first New Hampshire Charter School Association's 1st State Charter School Professional Development Day and shared three best practices:

- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA Assessments): A Tool for Individualized Student Programs (Reading, Language Arts & Math)
 - Extended Learning Opportunity
 - How to develop a competency based curriculum for high school students.
- NCCA presented, once again, its school program to the committee members representing the New Hampshire Excellence in Education.
 - NCCA presented its school program to the committee members serving on the North Country Employment Work Program. A relationship was established and NCCA was invited to participate in its formal Internship Program
 - NCCA was notified by the National Alliance for Public Charter School Organization that through a competitive process, it had been chosen to be presenters to share its successful model at their 2011 National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Conference. The conference took place in Atlanta, Georgia July 20-23, 2011. Our presentation was entitled, "Rural Charter School Collaborative to Reduce Dropout Rate".



(From left to right: Lisa Lavoie, NCCA Principal; Paul MacMillan, Superintendent SAU#35 & NCCA Board Chair; Scott Kleinschrodt, NCCA Center Director; Debra Ryder, NCCA Teacher; Roberta Tenney, NH Department of Education, School Approval; Kim Randall, NCCA Administrative Assistance/Guidance; Pat Kelly, NCCA Operations Manager.)

I would like to conclude by thanking the following School Districts, their Superintendents, and especially to all of their School Administrators who work very hard to support NCCA for the benefit of their students and families:

SAU# 3 Berlin	SAU#36 White Mts.Regional
SAU# 7 Colebrook	SAU#58 Northumberland
SAU#20 Gorham Randolph Shelburne Coop	SAU#68 Linwood
SAU#23 Haverhill Cooperative	SAU#77 Monroe
SAU#35 White Mountains	SAU#84 Littleton

In addition, I would also like to thank the neighboring Vermont Districts for participating and supporting NCCA efforts:

Essex Caledonia Supervisory Union #18
Essex North Supervisory Union #19

I would also like to thank the members of the North Country Charter Academy Board of Trustees for their incredible interest and investment in our school. It is a great pleasure working with this governing board of professionals. Thank you for your support, time, and belief in our mission.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my highly committed and dedicated staff. These caring individuals put our students first every single day. We have a professional team of individuals who truly go above and beyond meeting the needs of our students and their families.

“Our school doors are always open!! Come visit us!!”

Everyday is a **SUCCESSFUL DAY** here at North Country Charter Academy!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Lavoie
Principal