

NH businesses told: It's all about education

◆ Major message:
Business has a role.

By DENIS PAISTE
New Hampshire Union Leader

CONCORD — Learning math and science are key to the future of both the American economy and individual high school students, CNBC business reporter Trish Regan told a New Hampshire Scholars conference yesterday.

"Students in South Korea are just expected to really excel at things like math and science," she said.

Her recent reporting in Brazil found that country has created all kinds of initiatives to encourage young people in math and science.

"The world is recognizing it; we need to recognize it as well," she said.

The New Hampshire Scholars program encourages students to take a core course of study consisting of algebra I and II, geometry, biology, chemistry and physics, as well as four years of English and two of a foreign language.

Yesterday's session drew more than 200 to hear Regan and at-

tend a half-day program focused on expanding the Scholars program and its partnerships with businesses.

"The major message is, business has a role. We can be mentors for students," said Tom Raffio, president of Northeast Delta Dental and a member of the state Board of Education.

Northeast Delta Dental has hosted several students from Winnisquam and Bow high schools as interns in its accounting, marketing and executive offices.

"They are amazed at what goes on in the business community," he said.

"I think we can add to the curriculum by being mentors to students and having students who intern at the workplace," Raffio said.

Michael Power, executive director of the Workforce Opportunity Council, said the partnership between businesses and schools through the New Hampshire Scholars program is critical.

"In the last few years, there's been real recognition that we cannot operate in silos, where economic development is doing its own thing, workforce or tal-

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TRISH REGAN
CNBC reporter, NH native



ent development is doing another thing and educators are doing their own thing," he said.

"It's a three-legged stool, and they all have to work together," Power said. "We all have to be in each other's rooms and talk and move on behalf of the kids, so that we can enjoy a strong economy."

University of New Hampshire president Dr. Mark Huddleston introduced keynote speaker Regan.

There is a direct correlation between the amount of money you make and the amount of education you have, a number of studies show, Regan said.

"We have to figure out what

we as Americans can offer the world to keep us competitive, to keep our lifestyles growing and our economy growing," Regan said.

"We do have an incredibly nimble and flexible economy.

"Our population is very creative," she said. "We are still by a long shot the most productive nation in the world.

"In order to keep that edge, we have to invest in our young people, we have to invest in education," she said.

◆ On the Net:
www.nhscholars.org

CNBC's Regan hopes for speedy economic recovery

By DENIS PAISTE
New Hampshire Union Leader

CONCORD — As CNBC's co-anchor of "The Call" daily Wall Street report, New Hampshire native Trish Regan has sat at the center of the maelstrom through the subprime mortgage meltdown, the credit crisis and the \$700 billion federal bailout of big banks and investment houses. Yet she remains optimistic.

"I'm optimistic that we'll come out of it. As to when, that's the really hard thing to call right now," she said yesterday morning.

"What we're seeing right now is unprecedented, the turmoil in the financial markets is unlike anything we've seen since the 1930s," said Regan, an honors graduate in history from Columbia University and Hampton native.

"The government has really tried to attack the problem from many different angles and my hope is that will translate into a speedy recovery," she said.

Regan, who was Miss New Hampshire (as Tricia McEachern) in 1993, visited with her folks, John and Eileen McEachern in Hampton, and her sister, Caitlin, Monday night. Regan and her husband have a home on Lake Winnepesaukee in Moultonborough, where they plan on spending Thanksgiving.

"My whole career has been as an economics and business correspondent," Regan, who also is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, said in a recent telephone.

She also reports for CNBC's investigative magazine program "Business Nation" and contributes to "NBC Nightly News with

Brian Williams."

"For me, there's no better area to report on because it touches every aspect of life and policy and everything has an economic component to it, so I've been able to do a lot of different stories all based from an economic viewpoint."

Still, the shutdown in spending by consumers, who typically account for two-thirds of the American economy, remains a concern, she said.

"Right now they're so worried about whether or not they're going to have a job next month that they've stopped," she said.

"In fact, this summer we had GDP (gross domestic product) growing at 3.3 percent, and that was all thanks to the consumer," she said. "Businesses were already feeling the slowdown other economies worldwide were starting to slow, but the American consumer went out and spent the rebate checks and did a lot of shopping, which essentially helped keep this economy going.

However, consumer spending in the third quarter fell the most it has in 28 years.

"So I really hope that it's not going to be a long downturn, but I'm not sure," she said.

One caveat about the bailout Regan added, is that the price we'll have to pay for it will likely be higher taxes.

"But what else do you do?" she said. "Do you say okay we're not going to do anything and you just let everything come to standstill?"

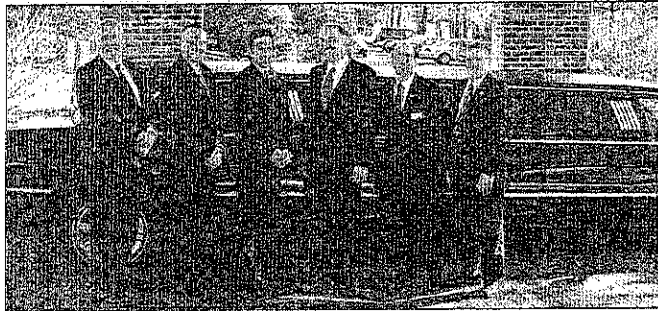
"I think we're going to be looking at an enormous deficit over the next couple of years, and that's not good, but the alternative is worse," she said.

NH out to woo Mass. businesses

By SUZANNE DATES
Union Leader Correspondent

NASHUA — The state is kicking off a new public-private initiative to lure Massachusetts businesses across the border.

Called "Open Invitation," the idea is to shower business owners with attention and ply them with free goodies — while making the pitch that with low taxes and fewer regulations than its neighbor to the south, New Hampshire is a great place to do business.



From left, David Rickard of Capital City Limousine; the Monarchs' Jason Bergeron; The Common Man CEO Jason Lyon; PSNH's Pat McDermott; Radisson Hotel Nashua GM Steve Lambert, and NH Business Resource Center Director Roy Duddy.

at no charge to the state, said Steve of New Hampshire. McDermott, PSNH economic and com-