Leadership New Hampshire

ALUMNI NEWS

Exploring the intersection of arts, culture, and community, the LNH Class of 2025 gathered March 20 at Colby-Sawyer College in New London for Arts & Culture Day. Highlights included:

🎤 The Power of the Arts – NH's arts leaders on creativity, innovation, and economic impact.

🚀 Red Planet Revival – Imagining which pieces of NH's culture we'd take if migrating to another planet.

🎬 Lights, Camera, Impact – NH's potential as a film hub.

🤖 Art Meets Algorithm – AI's influence on creativity and expression.



From left, Julie Palmeri, '25, Odette Butler, '25, and NH State Council on the Arts Director Adele Sciilia engage in a small group discussion during Arts & Culture Day.

Additional Arts & Culture Day photos can be seen on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram.

69 reasons to be proud

Thanks to you—our incredible alumni—Leadership New Hampshire continues to attract the best and brightest from across the state. Your outreach, nominations, and advocacy helped us receive 69 outstanding applications for the Class of 2026, a testament to LNH's impact and reputation as the state's premier leadership program.

This speaks volumes about the respect and cachet LNH holds in our state, and that's because of you—the leaders who carry forward our mission every day. Be proud of the community you're part of and the future leaders you're helping shape!

We can't wait to introduce you to the next class soon.

Join me for a beer? 

As the current program year continues, so too do the post-program day meetups with alumni. Following gatherings in Franconia, Plymouth, Boscawen, Manchester, Keene, Concord, and New London in recent months, we invite all alumni who are interested to join us for our *last post-session day alumni gathering of the 2025 program year*:

- 5-7pm, Thursday, April 17, at Smuttynose Brewing in Hampton

RSVP via the LNH Connects link above. Hope to see you there!



🎓 **Class of 2025 Graduation & Alumni Celebration** 🎉

Leadership New Hampshire invites you to the Class of 2025 Graduation & Alumni Celebration—a special evening honoring our newest graduates and bringing together the incredible LNH alumni network.

Reconnect with fellow alumni and celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2025. Enjoy great conversations, light fare, and a cash bar as we reflect on LNH's impact and look ahead to the future of leadership in our state.

Whether you want to welcome the newest members of our alumni community, catch up with old friends, or simply be part of an evening that reminds us why LNH matters, you won't want to miss LNH's biggest event of the year!

📅 Date: **5-8pm, Thursday, May 29**

📍 Location: **Labelle Winery in Amherst**

Reserve your spot today and be part of this unforgettable gathering!



Best,

Will Stewart

Executive Director

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Courtney Herz, '18

Hometown: Hopkinton

Courtney is a trial attorney at Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green, having practiced there since 2005. While she handles civil cases of all sorts, she maintains a particular focus on property-related disputes. She serves on the firm's Management

Committee and chairs its Pro Bono Committee, and is a proud Board member of New Hampshire Legal Assistance, which provides free civil legal aid throughout the state.

What is a lesson that you recently learned from your professional or community work that you would like to share with other alumni?

I am continually reminded of something that every LNH alum knows well – that, in New Hampshire, the degree of separation between each of us is far fewer than six. When I first moved to the state in 2005 as a brand new lawyer, I heard from multiple people what a small Bar we have here and how you would always know someone at any event you went to. It took a few years for that to start happening to me, but there is no question now that it is true. The fact that we are a small state of involved and committed residents presents many opportunities – for civic discourse and partnerships – that may be more challenging in less interconnected states.

Want to learn more? Email Courtney or connect with her on LNH Connects and LinkedIn.

ALUMNI ON THE MOVE



Miriam Carter '19 Dublin resident Miriam Carter has been named Executive Director of the Mariposa Museum and World Culture Center in Peterborough.



Joelyn Drennan '25 Brookline resident Joelyn Drennan has been promoted to Assistant Vice President of Impact at Granite United Way.



Nathan Karol '23 Bethlehem resident Nathan Karol has accepted the position of Financial Planner with Commonwealth Financial Group.

ALUMNI SERVING



Michelle Beaudin, ‘25 Landaff resident Michelle Beaudin was elected to the Landaff School Board on March 11.



Sarah Fox ‘12 Sanbornton resident Sarah Fox has been selected as a mentor for the NH Center for Nonprofits’ 2025 Hoffman Hass Fellowship program.



Rick Minard ‘02 Bow resident Rick Minard has been selected as a mentor for the NH Center for Nonprofits’ 2025 Hoffman Hass Fellowship program.



Suellen Peluso ‘02 Hopkinton resident Suellen Peluso has been selected as a mentor for the NH Center for Nonprofits’ 2025 Hoffman Hass Fellowship program.



Paul Provost ‘17 Concord resident Paul Provost has been selected as a mentor for the NH Center for Nonprofits’ 2025 Hoffman Hass Fellowship program.



Connie Roy-Czyzowski ‘02 Manchester resident Connie Roy-Czyzowski has been selected as a mentor for the NH Center for Nonprofits’ 2025 Hoffman Hass Fellowship program.



Rusty Talbot, ‘19 Sugar Hill resident Rusty Talbot was elected to the Sugar Hill Select Board on March 11.

ALUMNI PUBLISHED



Andru Volinsky ‘02 Concord resident Andru Volinsky is now a published author with the release of *The Last Bake Sale: The Fight for Fair School Funding.* Learn more and purchase.

ALUMNI HONORED



Ty Gagne, '13 Hampton resident Ty Gagne was honored by the Concord Public Library, which chose his book, *Where You'll Find Me*, as its selection for Concord Reads 2025.



Stephen Gianotti, '09 North Hampton resident Stephen Gianotti was honored by City Year NH as one of the organization's 25 champions at the organization's 25th anniversary gala on April 5.



Adam Hamilton '20 Peterborough resident Adam Hamilton, who co-owns Shire's Naturals with his husband Josh Valasquez, was named 2025 NH Small Business Manufacturer by the U.S. Small Business Administration.



Trinidad Tellez '11 Manchester resident Dr. Trinidad Tellez was honored by Black Lives Matter NH April 5 with the Excellence in Health award presented as part that organization's 2025 Black Excellence Awards.



Jeremy Walker, '09 Manchester resident Jeremy Walker was given the John R. McLane Jr. Community Service Award by the McLane Middleton law firm.



Paige Yeater, '22 Bedford resident Paige Yeater was selected as a 2025 Hoffman Haas Fellow by the NH Center for Nonprofits.

ALUMNI FEATURED



Sebastian Fuentes '21



Ali Sekou, '22

Thornton resident Sebastian Fuentes, '21, and Concord resident Ali Sekou, '22, were featured recently in the *Immigrants Among Us* series published by the Nashua Ink Link, in partnership with the Granite State News Collaborative. The series explores the personal stories of first-generation immigrants in New Hampshire, aiming to counteract growing resentment and dehumanization of immigrants in public

discourse. By putting a human face on immigration, the series seeks to challenge broad stereotypes and remind audiences of the role immigration has played in shaping the country's success.

ALUMNI ADVOCATING



Christina FitzPatrick, '24



Jake Berry, '17

The March 14 edition of the New Hampshire Union Leader featured "We can't afford to pay more for prescriptions," an op-ed co-authored by two LNH alumni: Concord resident Christina FitzPatrick, '24, and Manchester resident Jake Berry, '17.

The pair's op-ed advocates for the preservation of New Hampshire's Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Read more.



Jim Isaak '02

The March 28 edition of the New Hampshire Union Leader featured "News, information for smart people a bridge too far," an op-ed authored by Londonderry resident Jim Isaak, '02.

Jim advocates for the continued funding and support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which helps fund PBS and NPR. Read more.



Dan Weeks '19

The March 28 edition of New Hampshire Bulletin featured "King or Constitution," an op-ed authored by Nashua resident Dan Weeks, '19.

Dan advocates for the protection of free speech and due process, particularly in the context of government overreach and the targeting of lawful immigrants for their political beliefs. Read more.



Rick Minard '02

The April 8 edition of the New Hampshire Union leader featured "Using terror as apolicy weapon is simply wrong," an op-ed authored by Bow resident Rick Minard, '02.

Dan argues that the Department of Homeland Security caused unnecessary fear and panic among Ukrainian refugees by mistakenly sending deportation notices without explanation or apology, highlighting how cruelty and confusion are increasingly being used as tools of immigration policy. Read more.

WHY I INVEST IN LNH



"I considered my 2012 LNH experience my capstone project after years in philanthropy, but I learned so much and made so many new connections that I knew it would make my retirement more fulfilling. I give annually and encourage my classmates to join me because LNH continues to enhance the NH experience and I'm proud to be associated with such an important organization." - **Ellie Cochran, '12**

Join Ellie and invest in LNH today!