A Collaborative Approach to Dropout Prevention

It's All About the KID!

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Littleton & Lancaster, NH
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GREG WILLIAMS
Teacher, Lancaster

North Country Charter Academy
LYNNE GRIGELEVICH
Registrar
Presentation Focus

- How NCCA operates
- How to apply our model in your school district
Survey

• What is your favorite color?
  – Write 3 adjectives that describe your favorite color.

• What is your favorite animal?
  – Write 3 adjectives that describe your favorite color.

• You are in a white room with no windows or doors, and you are wearing no clothes - how do you feel?
  – Write 3 adjectives that describe how you feel.

• What is your favorite body of water?
  – Write 3 adjectives that describe your favorite body of water.
What do you face in schools?

- xxx
“Just a minute, please.”
Established in 2004

Collaborative efforts of North Country Education Services (NCES) Agency and nine School District Superintendents

Public school authorized by the NH Department of Education

Original start up grant that was part of the $7.1 million national grant that NH received in August 2003 to authorize up to 20 public charter schools (RSA 194-B:3-a)

Some funding from supporting districts

Some funding from grants

"Original Nine"

| SAU #3  | Berlin   |
| SAU #7  | Colebrook|
| SAU #20 | Gorham   |
| SAU #23 | Haverhill Cooperative |
| SAU #35 | Profile, Lisbon, Littleton |
| SAU #36 | White Mountains Regional High School |
| SAU #58 | Groveton, North Stratford, Stark |
| SAU #68 | Lin-Wood Public School |
| SAU #77 | Monroe   |
Service Area

North Country Charter Academy Serves:
- 10 NH School Districts
- 15 NH Schools Referring from over 45 Communities
- 4,000 Geographical Square Miles
- 3 VT Supervisory Unions
Collaborative Solution

NCCA

District

High School

CTE Center

Local Businesses
Video – Bob Nelson (5 minutes)

The Principal’s Perspective
How It Happens

Referral
- Sending high school identifies student and submits referral paperwork

Interview
- Center Director and Teacher conduct extensive interview with student and parent/guardian

Assessments
- NWEA & Math Analytic
- Writing Sample
Personalization & Individualization
Daniel Desaindes ’15 combined the ELO and Community Service by preparing, planting and harvesting a garden. His studies encompassed history, farming & math, and the fruits of his labor were shared with local food banks.
Making the Most of the Opportunities
It’s All About the Kid!
“Excuses, excuses, excuses!”
## 2015 Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free &amp; Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjudicated</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant/Parenting</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless/Foster Care</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Dropouts</td>
<td>6%</td>
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</table>
COMPONENTS OF SUCCESS

■ Structured Environment
  ■ Reduce drama
  ■ Increase student responsibility
  ■ Strict center rules
■ Curriculum
  ■ Rigorous and Relevant
  ■ Self-paced
  ■ Competency Based
■ Local School District Partnerships
  ■ Shared resources
■ Parental/Community Support
NH DOE 4-Year Cumulative Dropout Rate 2002 vs 2011

- Berlin
- Colebrook
- Groveton
- Haverhill
- Lin-Wood
- Littleton
- Profile
- WMRHS

School Districts

Percentage of Dropouts

2002

2011
We want students to view attending NCCA as if this were their job. Students (employees) & NCCA (employer)

**Workplace Expectations**

- **Accountability**
  - Attendance
    - 90% or better
  - Following Rules
    - Cell phones, Internet use, dress code

- **Performance**
  - Competency-based
    - Work to mastery
  - Commitment
    - Put forth the effort, or return to your sending district

- **Development of Work Ethic**
NH Governor Maggie Hassan
2014-2015 Budget

**Revenues:**

- 10 School District Contributions: $310,986.00
- 54 Contracted Seats/$5,759.00
- State Aid $269,932.00
- Grants/Title Money/REAP $78,700.00
- Out of State-Vermont $30,000.00
# 2014-2015 Itemized Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures: (2 Schools)</th>
<th>$689,618.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Salaries:</td>
<td>$156,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Salaries:</td>
<td>$170,557</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits:</td>
<td>$167,431</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation:</td>
<td>$ 92,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility Leases:</td>
<td>$ 50,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel:</td>
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<td>Prof. Dev.</td>
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<td>Data/Tech/Connect:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies/Equipment:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assoc. Dues/Audit:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advert./Printing/Web:</td>
<td>$   2,700</td>
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<td>Postage/Telephone:</td>
<td>$   4,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>$   200</td>
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110 Students Served        COST PER PUPIL: $6,269
Success Stories

Shania Shannon graduated from NCCA in 2013, and she then set her sights on college. She is currently in her sophomore year at NHTI in Concord, NH.

Trevor Reynolds, Class of 2013, is working aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis in the US Navy.

Curran Wood, Class of 2011, is studying Music Production & Engineering at Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida.

Justin Brown, Class of 2010, completed his first tour of duty in Kunar Province, Afghanistan in 2013. He just shipped out for his second tour with the Bravo Company 2/327 NO SLACK Battalion.

Seth Flint of 2008 serves as the Youth Pastor for the Paradigm program at the World Outreach Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he lives with his wife, Jessica. He is in his second year in the Advanced School of Ministry.

Jessica Riff graduated from NCCA on June 3, 2012 and on the same day, she took her state licensing exams. She is now a certified LNA.

Tony Gilding, Class of 2010, drives for FedEx and serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Bethlehem, NH Fire Department.

Holly Barnett, Class of 2012, is studying in the Certified Medical Assistant program at the Northlands Job Corps Center.

James Mercier, Class of 2005, graduated from Longy School of Music and is now a music teacher and his wife, Carol Mackenzie-Mercier, also of ’05, earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from Becker College.
Higher Education Placements

- Granite State College
- University of Hawaii
- Northern Essex Community College, MA
- NH Community Technical College
- State Firefighting Level II
- Advanced Technical Institute, VA
- White Mountains Community College
- Plymouth State University
- Berlin College
- ITT Indianapolis

- Keene State College
- University of West Virginia
- Wyoming Technical Institute
- Licensed Nursing Program, NH
- Longy School of Music, MA
- Becket College, MA
- McIntosh College
- Full Sail University, FL
- Coastal Bend College, TX
- University of Phoenix
Transformations

Curran Wood before...
Graduating this summer from Full Sail University in Florida

...and after!
James “Mikey” Sams before...
...and after!

Currently studying at Plymouth State University

“My time at Charter [was] a very enjoyable experience, one which I wouldn’t trade for anything. When I first started going to Charter, I was an entirely different person than who I am now. I really didn’t care about school. To me getting an education seemed pointless and was more of a thorn in my side than a benefit. Charter has truly been a second chance for me, and it has truly made an impact on who I am today. I realized that knowledge was a powerful thing. I started taking education very seriously, and it’s impacted me greatly. I owe a big chunk of this to Charter and how it’s set up. Now life is just an open field, waiting for me to pave my own way through.”
Statistics of Success

- 78 were prior high school dropouts
- 110 students served each year
- 92% attendance rate
- 74% decrease in number of students dropping out of North Country high schools
- 376 NCCA graduates
North Country Charter Academy is the BEST!

James Elliot, Class of 2010