



Helping Students Find Their Direction & Fund Their Future

At Granite Edvance, we help students take the next step in their journeys, whether that step is a dip of the toe into a new opportunity or a huge leap into the unknown.

We recently took one of those leaps ourselves. In November 2023, we changed our name from the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) Network to Granite Edvance, and our 62-year-old organization embarked on a new chapter, guided by a vision of increasing our impact in the Granite State.

Several years in the making, that vision had already begun transforming us in important ways. In 2024, with a new name and a new look, it truly came to life. Throughout the year, we were able to build and enrich community connections in ways that surpassed our expectations – forming new partnerships, collaborating with a wide variety of individuals and organizations, traveling throughout the state to share our services, and hosting events on our campus.

As we strengthened our ties in the community, we were able to increase our impact even more. In 2024, we awarded a record amount of scholarship money, established two new programs to support community college students, provided critical assistance with the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and found new outlets for sharing our resources and services. All the while, we continued to serve as a trusted partner to students and families navigating their college and career pathways.

This annual impact report is yet another step in sharing our vision and the work we care about so much. We are deeply grateful to those who joined us in helping NH students in 2024, and we look forward to further deepening our impact in 2025.

We Are

A New Hampshire-based

Our Mission

We Offer

Christiana Thornton
President and CEO
Granite Edvance





Unlock your college funding options



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is probably no one's idea of a good time, but we'd like to think we made it fun-adjacent in the summer of 2024. With banners, T-shirts, fun giveaways, and boatloads of enthusiasm, the Granite Edvance team became as ubiquitous around the state as ice cream cones and live bands, popping up at farmers' markets, baseball games, shopping outlets, and community events.

Our goal was simple: to spread the message that it



SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

college campus. Neither her parents nor her older siblings had gone to college, and she wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life, much less how to get there.

didn't really seem attainable. I didn't know how I would pay for it or apply ... and I didn't really have anyone in my family that I could talk to."

But during a junior year ceramics class at Manchester Central High School, an idea began to take shape in

college for art.

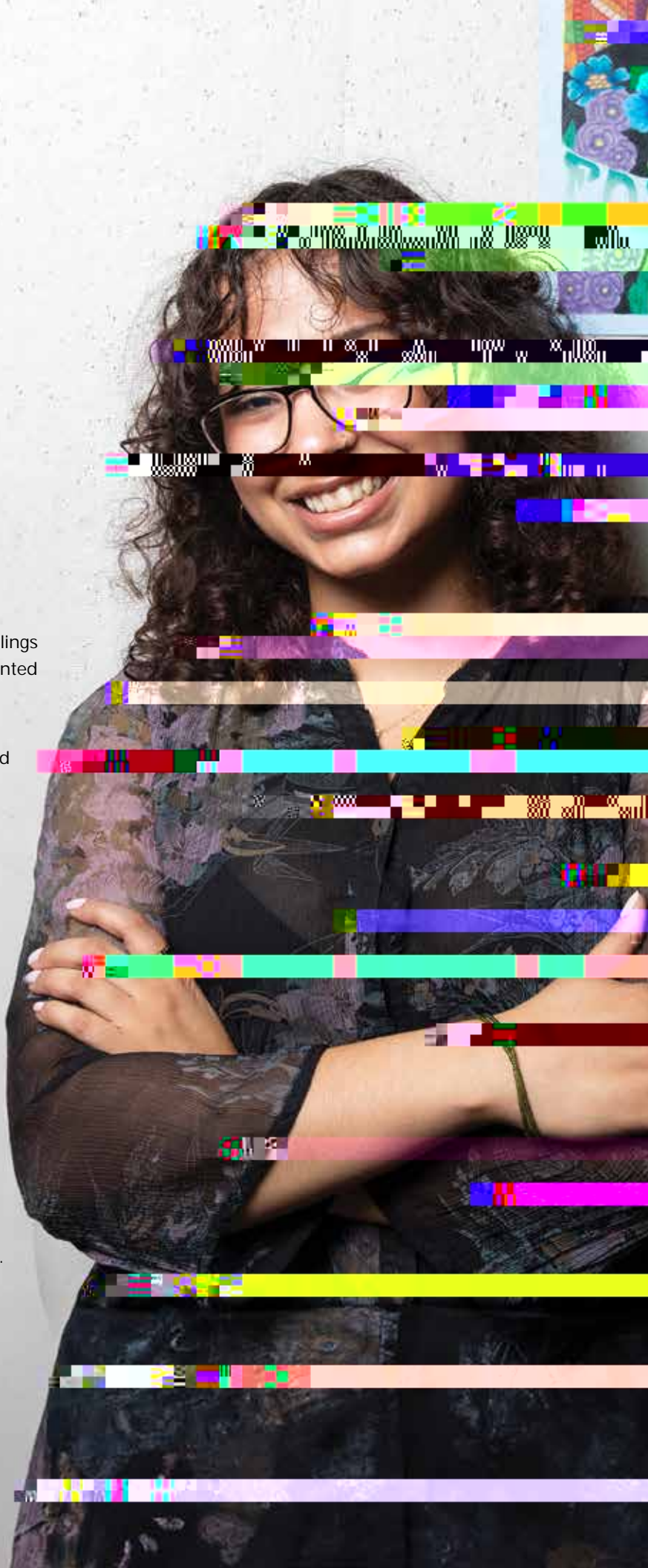
teachers, signed up for dual enrollment classes, and joined her high school's chapter of Educational Talent Search, a federally funded program geared

disadvantaged students. She worked hard on her college application and essay and sleuthed out as

art business, perhaps traveling the arts market circuit.

to inspire her family as she earns her degree.

"My siblings are my best friends, and I would do anything in the world for them," she said. "I want to be someone ... that they can look up to."





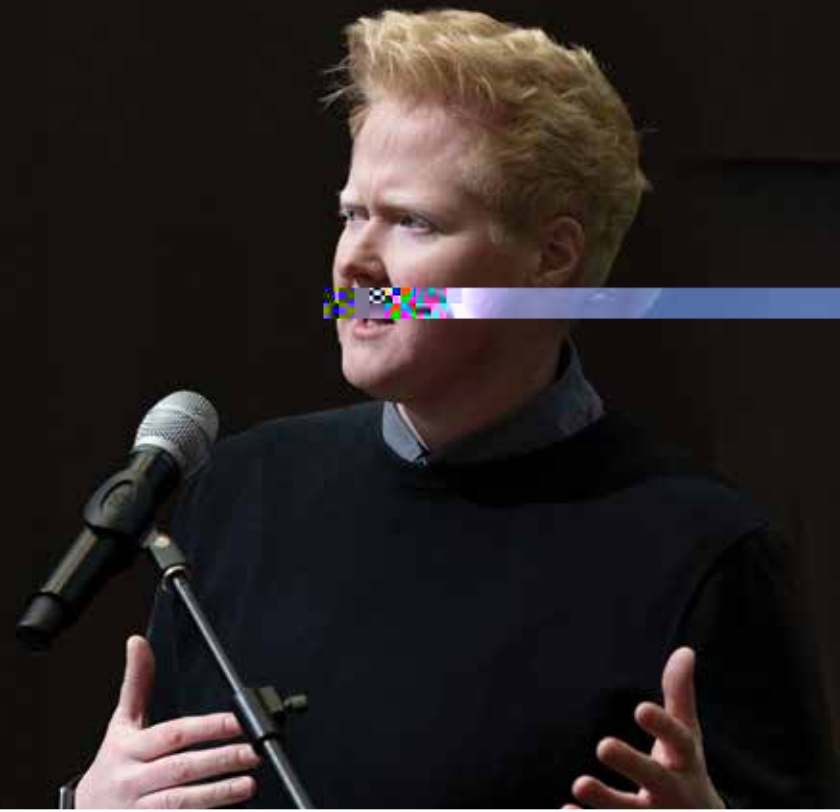
nursing degree at Great Bay Community College, she did so with a clear vision and a plan. "It just felt right," said Cassie, who lives in Newmarket with her husband and three children. "I've always wanted to be in some kind of helping profession."



A GATEWAY INTO COLLEGE PLANNING

More than 600 NH high school juniors and their family members attended our 25th annual Destination College event, held in April 2024 at Saint Anselm College. Designed to help students start their college planning journey, the

advice from young professionals who were once in their shoes, and insights from Granite Edvance's own college planning experts.



EXPANDED ACCESS THROUGH KEY PARTNERSHIPS

One of the many ways we share our resources and services with the community is

support students in navigating their postsecondary journeys. In 2024, we also

in all 50 states by entering into a partnership with a nationwide lender.



Our Board



Susan Huard
outgoing chair of Granite Edvance board of trustees



Paul Provost
Incoming Chair



Vice Chair



Carol Houle
Treasurer



Secretary



Peter Burger



Bill Dwyer



Hans Olson



Sandy Tracy



Debby Miller



Debby Miller



Hans Olson



Sandy Tracy

Our 2024 Volunteers

Mike Ahearn
Miho Bean
Amanda Berthiaume
Alex Boudreau
Tyler Brown

Alex Burt

Brianna Coleman
Doug Cullen

Carolyn Doherty



TORY RUDOLPH

2024 Granite Edvance
Scholarship Winner

ON THE COVER

PAYING KINDNESS FORWARD

student: herself. Going through struggles at home, she had started falling behind her peers in elementary school.

"I didn't pick things up as quickly as everyone else, but I wanted to do better. I just wanted to be smart," said Tory, who remembers asking for math workbooks for Christmas when she was in third or fourth grade. "I just started teaching myself how to learn."

As she continued to chart her own course, Tory learned she wasn't entirely alone. In elementary school, her teachers were a constant source of support during the hard times at home. And in middle school, one teacher helped her

never rushed if somebody didn't understand something," said Tory, now a

During her last semester of high school, Tory completed an internship at Paul Smith Elementary School in Franklin. The experience brought back memories of her own time in elementary school and further inspired her to pursue a career in education.

"I just want to be there for kids because you never know what's going on at