

New Hampshire Sunday News presents the 2022

EDies Awards

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The New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards • www.edies.org • @nh_edies



The
28th
Annual

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Barnard's Casassa helps students develop a love of reading

SARA CASASSA, a language arts teacher at Barnard School in South Hampton, was named New Hampshire's 2022 Teacher of the Year. Casassa is an exceptional educator who is committed to building

strong relationships with students and parents. She has made enormous strides in her classroom and within her district, and has been integral in advancing technology and promoting literacy in ways that

are engaging and exciting for today's youth. Her ability to match books to students and help them develop an absolute love of reading is a true testament to her success. One of Casassa's tradi-

tions is to bake treats for her students on their birthday, another example that she understands the value of celebrating each child and their bright future. "Sara's commitment to excellence in educa-

tion should be celebrated and honored, and we are proud to recognize all of her wonderful accomplishments throughout her teaching career," said Frank Edelblut, New Hampshire's commissioner of education.



SARA CASASSA

2022 SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Highland praised as a true community school

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Excellence in Education Awards has selected Highland-Goffe's Falls as the 2022 New Hampshire Elementary School of Excellence Award.

Highland is a true community school that has worked with endless passion and dedication to unite the school, families, and community to support their learners.

Highland's vision states they, "Realize the dreams of students — one at a time." This is supported by educators who continue to evaluate their instruction, curriculum, and data in order to support each learner; this vision is also supported by a variety of



after school student clubs and activities.

Many of those involved at Highland attended the school themselves as children and continue to see themselves as

important members of HGF's community.

Pride emulates from administration, staff, students, and families, and inspires those who walk through their doors.

Amherst Middle values student/teacher relationships

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Excellence in Education Awards has selected Amherst Middle School as the 2022 New Hampshire Middle School of Excellence.

Amherst Middle School has created an environment where relationships between teachers and students are valued.

These relationships begin during the daily Launchpad and continue throughout the day as students move through their classes.

Students have choices in their electives at AMS. Teachers work hard to create unique, challenging, and engaging opportunities for students to choose from. Suc-



cess is celebrated.

AMS has returned from the pandemic with strong supports

for student emotional learning.

Students come first at Amherst Middle School.

Henniker K-8 committed to student-centered learning

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Excellence in Education Awards has selected Henniker Community School as the recipient of the 2022 New Hampshire K-8 School of Excellence.

Having the generations-old title of "Community" in their name is a perfect description of the school's commitment to student-centered individualized learning and community service.

By their own definition this is accomplished using: "curriculum and instructional practices designed and implemented to engage all learners in rigorous and relevant ways."

Ongoing activities like their



"Ambassadors of Kindness" (AOK) and very unique "Henniker History Walk" prove their

outstanding commitment to their students, their families, and the Henniker Community.

Windham High supports students' advancement

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Excellence in Education Awards has selected Windham High School as the 2022 recipient of the New Hampshire Secondary School of Excellence Award.

The selection committee was impressed with the high academic standards, the inclusivity, the community involvement, the rigorous curriculum work and program of studies provided at Windham High School.

The leadership and engagement of students was evident in the classroom, on the athletic field, in student presentations, and community connections.

From freshman year through graduation, students are provided remarkable classroom



opportunities, high quality Extended Learning Opportunities, and an abundance of choice within the program of studies to allow students to make their high school experience special.

Overall, it was clear that the Windham High School program-

ming all support student needs for growth and advancement.

The selection committee saw abundant evidence of personalized learning built around student interests and close relationships that results in real world learning.

EDies ceremony honors N.H.'s outstanding educators

The New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards, lovingly referred to as the EDies, is proud to celebrate its 29th year of honoring teachers, administrators, volunteers and schools of excellence. This year, the annual celebration and black-tie event returned to the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Manchester and was held Saturday, June 4.

The EDies serve as a catalyst to highlight outstanding efforts of those being honored and uses their example to inspire and motivate others throughout the state. All public schools are invited to demonstrate their excellence. Details can be found at www.edies.org.

SPECIAL DEDICATION AWARD



Bill Marston honored for legendary career in education

The New Hampshire Excellence in Education Board is proud to dedicate the 28th Annual EDies Awards this year, posthumously, to **William H. Marston**.

Marston's long career in education began in the elementary classroom in Warren and wound its way through administration in Gorham after his return from the service.

With over 53 years, Marston is believed to be the longest serving administrator in New Hampshire. Most of those years were spent at Pembroke Academy and Goffstown High School but other opportunities to fill in long- and short-term vacancies kept him busy after his "retirement."

Marston was an example of a continuous learner earning numerous degrees that, when combined with his vast experience, provided a wealth of expertise for the many who were fortunate to have Marston as a professor at Mount St. Mary and Notre Dame Colleges as well as Plymouth State University.

Marston's awards and recognition are too numerous to list here but suffice it to say they are legendary! We are proud to add this honor to his list of accomplishments. His legacy in education is clearly his devotion to educating and caring for the "whole child." We are all richer for having shared moments along our own journeys with Marston.

SCHOOL BOARD OF EXCELLENCE



From left, Cheryl McDaniel-Thomas, Swanzey; Kristen Noonan, Fitzwilliam; Colleen Toomey, Swanzey; Scott Peters, Chair, Troy; Lisa Steadman, Vice-Chair, Troy; Eric Stanley, Swanzey; and Dan LeClair, Swanzey. Not pictured: Winston Wright, Fitzwilliam; Betty Tatro, Swanzey; Brian Bohannon, Swanzey; Michelle Connor, Richmond; Nick Mosher, Roxbury; and Jennifer Strimbeck, Gilsum.

Monadnock Regional SB honored

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE School Boards Association has selected the Monadnock Regional School Board as its 2022 School Board of Excellence. The Monadnock Regional School Board excelled in every facet of school board leadership, with a particular emphasis on: enhanced community feedback and engagement; revising and improving a District Strategic Plan; proceeding with student personalized learning; implementing programs to address the social and emotional concerns of all children in response to parental concerns; and greater outreach and collaboration with a cross-section of education and community.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Pembroke Academy recognized for Innovations in Learning

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Excellence in Education Awards has selected Pembroke Academy to receive a Special Recognition Award for Innovations in Learning.

This special recognition highlights the systematic, insightful, and engaging assessment system which allows students to demonstrate mastery of skills and knowledge in relevant and authentic ways.

Pembroke Academy is awarded the 2022 Innovations in Learning Award for their exemplary work with competency-based education.

In addition to reporting on academic performance, Pembroke Academy students are held accountable for growth in the Vision of a Graduate Indicators. Students, parents, and staff have a deep understanding and believe in the system. It is clear that Pembroke Academy truly lives competency-based learning.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

MicroSociety Academy recognized for Engagement and Empowerment

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Excellence in Education Board has selected The MicroSociety Academy Charter School in Nashua for special recognition for Engagement and Empowerment. This award shines a light on the incredible work that the MicroSociety Academy does to meaningfully include each of their students. This environment fosters continuous growth and tremendous pride within the school community.

Founded in 2015, MACS follows a daily schedule that includes a unique set of student activities as described in their design: "Characteristics of a school-wide model include all students having at least one job in the society, one hour of micro time per day in which students report to their jobs, and the incorporation of MicroSociety concepts into everyday lessons and curriculum."

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

LeBoeuf managed many challenges during the pandemic

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Association of School Business Officials has selected Larry LeBoeuf as the 2022 School Business Administrator of the Year.

LeBoeuf was commended for the deep trust he has established in the community for the financial practices of Kearsarge Regional School District.

He has instilled confidence in the district's finances and in his skills to manage every penny of public money he administers. LaBoeuf was also recognized for embracing innovation and improved efficiencies where it makes good business sense; specifically for implementing an electronic time-accounting system for all personnel.

He was also commended for successfully navigating the many complex and unprecedented challenges associated with school closures, remote instruction, modified in-person learning, and mitigation strategies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



LARRY LeBOEUF

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL LIBRARY

Plymouth Regional Library staff celebrates students first

THE NHSLMA OUTSTANDING Library Program Award recognizes an exemplary library media program and services. The Plymouth Regional Library Commons, led by Emelia Fleck, at Plymouth High School is a dynamic hub that meets the diverse needs of all learners, fosters creativity, curiosity, and exploration. The staff celebrates students first! All students (in person, remote, homeschool) have access to the majority of resources via the website, and the librarian is readily available in person or via Google Meet if a student needs assistance. Due to these examples and more, the PRHS Library Commons is the 2022 NHSLMA Outstanding Library Program.



EMELIA FLECK

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Witte has 'vision for change and hope in NH schools'

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE School Administrators Association has selected **Lisa Witte** of the Monadnock Regional School District as the 2022 New Hampshire Superintendent of the Year.

Superintendent Witte was selected for this honor by a panel of her peers and from a distinguished group of nominees.

Winifried Feneberg, 2021 New Hampshire Superintendent of the Year, stated that, "Lisa is an out-

standing advocate for public education. Her focus at all times is the best interest of all learners. She represents her district, her region, and her state in an impeccable, intelligent, and



LISA WITTE

visionary fashion when it comes to important matters affecting schools and student learning."

Ronna F. Cadarette, SAU #56 Superintendent of Schools, stated that, "Lisa is a consummate advocate for students and excellence in learning. The actions she takes model pure courage and strength to forge forward with a vision for change and hope in New Hampshire schools that go far beyond just words."

OUR MAJOR SPONSOR



Gathered outside McDonald's are Sherry Tellier, Kelly Bresnahan, Katie Jolicouer, Peter Napoli, Lisa Cole, Danielle Dugas, Whitney Reyes, Tayla Timpe, Susan Matthews, Maddox Baskerville, Shawn Baskerville, Trish Devereaux, Jeff Record, Rebecca Devanna, Mike Gambino, Susan Chandonnet, Amy Lanouette, Lana Lababidi, Nick Panzini, Kyle Gschwend, Collette Flanders, Jess Wilson, Paul Yergeau and David Sutherland.

McDonald's honors educators, schools since EDies program began in 1994

McDONALD'S RESTAURANTS of New Hampshire have been longtime dedicated sponsors of the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards, or EDies. They began supporting the organization at the program's inception in 1993 with the first EDies taking place on June 12, 1994.

"At McDonald's, we pride ourselves on being actively involved in the communities in which we live and work. Every year, McDonald's owner/operators in New Hampshire look forward to this opportunity to work with the New Hampshire EDies program to honor our community's enthusiastic and hard-working educators and students," said Peter Napoli, local McDonald's owner/operator.

This year, local owners of McDonald's are sponsoring the EDies 28th Celebration of Excellence in Education. Over the past 28 years, McDonald's has given more than \$535,000 to support this endeavor with more than \$131,000 going directly to the schools celebrated — over 500 individual educators and 83 schools have been recognized.

Funding for the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards is crucial and the EDies Board of Directors continues to express deep gratitude to McDonald's Restaurants of New Hampshire as their primary financial sponsor.

With McDonald's' continued commitment to children and to the communities in which they do business, we work together in honoring New Hampshire educators.

Sponsors of the 2022 EDie Awards



NEA-New Hampshire



Level I

Discovery Education
Granite State College

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HealthTrust

N.H. Learning Initiative (NHLI)

N.H. School Administrators Association

Northeast Delta Dental

Special Recognition

RC Brayshaw

TS Events

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WMUR

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Stevens well known for caring approach

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Association of School Principals has selected **Lori Stevens** as the 2022 Elementary Principal of the Year.

Members of the visiting selection committee agreed that Stevens embodies care in all aspects of her role. The sentiment shared by all stakeholders included that she cares deeply about students, staff, and the school community.

She puts students first and supports staff to be the best they can be for the Emerson Elementary School community in Fitzwilliam.

Stevens has a clear focus on students and staff in terms of happiness, wellness, and social-emotional health. She clearly follows the mantra that happy people work harder and she goes above and beyond to make sure that her staff and school community know how much she cares about her work.



LORI STEVENS

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Brown 'shows up' for his community

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Association of School Principals has selected **Greg Brown** as the 2022 Assistant Principal of the Year.

Brown, of Dover's Woodman Park Elementary School, was selected because of all of the ways he "shows up" in service to his school community. When he conducts his daily classroom visits, the students' eyes light up. They want to tell him all about the work they are doing, or what they did over the weekend. He is a huge reason why students feel safe at school.

One student shared, "When I was younger, I didn't want to come to school, but he helped me by holding my hand. He is funny ... he even kind of wears the same outfit every day."

During COVID-19, Brown visited homes to check on students and families, delivering food, devices, and even diapers. Parents shared that "when you talk with Mr. Brown, he makes you feel like you are the most important person to him."



GREG BROWN



PAT KEYES
AWARD

Ramsey helps students spread kindness, positivity

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Society for Technology in Education has selected Dr. Rachael Ramsey, McKelvie Intermediate School, Bedford, as the 2022 recipient of its Pat Keyes Award.



DR. RACHAEL RAMSEY

Ramsey's passion is providing young learners with opportunities to lead and become independent individuals. She weaves together gamification, technology, executive function, and positive psychology to create experiences and an environment

young learners will embrace and thrive. Her focus has been on the unique needs of middle level learners. For the past 15 years, she has sought ways to help students spread kindness and positivity within the classroom setting.

Ramsey uses social media platforms to provide executive function lessons and information. Her goal is to extend this knowledge with as many people as possible. Her YouTube channel and website, Teenchangers, provides resources, activities, advisory lessons and gamified experiences for caregivers, educators and learners who wish to learn more about executive function skills.

SUSAN JANOSZ
AWARD

Blanc supported teachers, students during remote learning

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Society for Technology in Education has selected Sandra Blanc as its 2022 recipient of the Susan Janosz Award. Blanc is the Technology Coordinator at Exeter High School and has worked there since 2016.



SANDRA BLANC

Prior to her technology career, she was the art teacher and was very interested in technology, learning, and teaching her colleagues about new technologies and ways to integrate them into the classroom. In 2020, SAU16 awarded her a "Leader to Learn From Award" in recognition of her role as Technology Coordinator.

During the pandemic school shut down, Blanc had an immense task of supporting staff and students for remote learning. She created accessible information for parents, staff, and students on the district websites, helping the school come up with creative technology solutions to various things such as food service forms, covid screening forms, and numerous tutorials for staff, students, and parents on how to navigate the technology from home.

DENNISE
MASLAKOWSKI
EDUCATION AWARD

McLean shows dedication and passion for teaching

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation has selected Amber McLane, Gilford Middle School, as the 2022 recipient for the Denise Maslakowski Education Award.



AMBER McLEAN

McLean exemplifies the characteristics of the award through her dedication and passion for teaching. She is reflective, seeks out resources to improve her teaching, assesses her impact on students and stays current on best practices.

McLane was recognized by the State of New Hampshire as the Middle School PE Teacher of the Year in 2020 and as the SHAPE America Eastern District School Teacher of the Year in 2020. She has served as a mentor teacher for Plymouth State interns for over 12 years.

DORIS BARNES RETIRED TEACHER
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lenzi supports teachers, works with students needing help

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Excellence in Education Awards has selected Pam Lenzi of Barrington as this year's recipient of the Doris Barnes Retired Educator Lifetime Achievement Award.

Lenzi represents everything that Doris Barnes exemplified and is deserving of the Doris Barnes Retired Educator Lifetime Achievement Award.

Since Lenzi retired, she has continuously supported the Early Childhood Learning Center. She is a mentor to all. She confers with teachers and then comes back with needed support, such as completed primary grade reading assessments, providing one-on-one support to struggling students,

and preparing materials and activities to allow teachers to focus on students' unique needs. She rarely leaves the school empty-handed, taking home prep work and returning with the completed tasks.

When she has no work to complete, she knits mittens, a project connected to a book she read to students for years. Lenzi notices what is needed, and in her quiet humble manner, she takes care of it.



PAM LENZI

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE SABBATICAL AWARD

Cannon will focus on early literacy instruction on a statewide level

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Charitable Foundation awards one New Hampshire teacher a year-long sabbatical in honor of Christa McAuliffe to pursue a project of his or her professional dreams.

Elizabeth Cannon of Harold Martin Elementary School in Hopkinton was chosen because of her passion, dedication, and enthusiasm. She embodies the spirit that the Sabbatical is meant to foster.

Cannon's plans to increase educator's knowledge of best practices for early literacy instruction will benefit both teachers and students across New Hampshire, addressing student literacy

needs at a critical time following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through YouTube videos, online resources, collaboration with New Hampshire schools and teachers, and other resources, Cannon will support other educators in addressing early literacy practices and create structures for collaboration on a statewide level.



ELIZABETH CANNON

NHCSS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Baylus named outstanding social studies teacher

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Council for the Social Studies (NHCSS) has selected Catherine Baylus of Laconia Middle School as its 2022 recipient of the NHCSS Teacher of the Year Award.

"The NHCSS is excited to recognize Cathy Baylus this fall for her depth and breadth of work and achievement as an outstanding Social Studies teacher in the state of New Hampshire," wrote Curtis Roddy, president of the NHCSS.

Baylus is recognized for her devotion to the Laconia Middle School community, her engagement with other education professionals across the state, and her motto, "Try to be

the rainbow in someone's cloud."

Alison Bryant, principal of LMS, said that Baylus has developed a reputation in the school for being "the first to jump in on school spirit activities, such as dress up days or assembly events. She is passionate about reading and social studies, and she is always finding new ways to keep students hooked on learning."



CATHERINE BAYLUS

Professionals honored for their job excellence

Karen Eylander, Grantham Village School, Grantham: The New Hampshire School Nurses' Association has selected Karen Eylander as the 2022 School Nurse of the Year.

In addition to being a highly-skilled medical professional, Eylander is also a dedicated and extremely compassionate member of the GVS community.

"If a child tells her that they don't feel well, Karen doesn't just ask about symptoms and take a temperature. She also takes the opportunity to talk about how germs spread and the importance of washing hands," said Principal Kristen Reed. "At every possible opportunity, Karen stitches education into her medical duties as a nurse."

On her way home each evening, she often delivers bags of school supplies to students who are under COVID-19 quarantine.

Superintendent Leggett said of Eylander, "Through COVID, she also took part

in our weekly open parent/guardian check-in nights, where anyone from the community could ask questions and provide input. This is all above and beyond the usual call of duty."

Kate O. Salvati, Strafford Learning Center, Somersworth: The New Hampshire Association of School Psychologists recognizes excellence in the provision of school psychological services by a NHASP member. They have chosen Kate O. Salvati, MS, NCSP of Strafford Learning Center as the 2022 recipient of the School Psychologist of the Year award.

Salvati is a true leader in the field and a champion for children, youth, and families. Throughout her career, Salvati has made meaningful contributions to the development of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) at the state and local level.

She is committed to creating systems and services that promote safe and supportive school environments using

current research related to fostering resilience, promoting mental health well-being, and nurturing social emotional wellness for children.

Alison Memoli, John Fuller Elementary School, North Conway: The New Hampshire School Counselor Association has selected Alison Memoli as the 2022 School Counselor of the Year.

In addition to being a school counselor for 19 years, Allison is a Licensed Social Worker. She has been an advocate for students and the profession, serving on local, state and national committees.

Memoli has been instrumental in introducing the career domain into her counseling program and, together with district counselors, offered a virtual career day for K-8 students.

Memoli serves on the PTO, Health and Wellness Committee and the New Hampshire School Counselor Association Board. To quote

her principal, "Alison is the sunshine of our school."

Rachael Bowman, ConVal Regional High School, Peterborough: The New Hampshire School Library Media Association has selected Rachael Bowman as the 2022 School Librarian of the Year.

Award recipients are those who are leaders in the school library community and have made a significant statewide impact. The ConVal High School Library is the bustling hub of the school. The library and technology team are constantly adapting to provide space and resources for the ever-changing needs of the school community.

Bowman and her team are committed to a dynamic library model that supports the curricular and extracurricular needs of the students and staff. This award is a testament to the commitment that the ConVal School District has made to its school libraries and school librarians.

2021-2022 Collaborative Partners

- Council for Exceptional Children N.H.
- Extended Learning Opportunities Network
- N.H. Art Educators' Association
- N.H. Association of School Business Officials
- N.H. Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development
- N.H. Association of Special Education Administrators
- N.H. Association of School Principals
- N.H. Association of School Psychologists
- N.H. Association of World Language Teachers
- N.H. Charitable Foundation
- N.H. Council for the Social Studies
- N.H. Department of Education
- N.H. Excellence in Education
- N.H. Music Educators Association
- N.H. School Administrators Association
- N.H. School Boards Association
- N.H. School Counselor Association
- N.H. School Library Media Association
- N.H. School Nurses' Association
- N.H. Society of Technology in Education
- PSU Holmes Center for School Partnerships & Educator Preparation

EDies Board of Directors

2021-2022 Board of Directors

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- Dee Rainville

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- Paul Leather
- Peggy McAllister
- Jane Lacasse

OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Carter honored as teacher, founder, administrator

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development has chosen Kim Carter, QED Foundation, Amherst, to receive the 2022 Outstanding Educational Leadership Award.



KIM CARTER

Carter is a renowned educator in the State of New Hampshire. She founded the MC2 charter school, is the executive director of the QED Foundation, a nonprofit that works to create and sustain student-centered learning communities; she is

a former New Hampshire Teacher of the Year and has served on several education focused boards in the State.

Carter has been a voice for all educators and students. Even in retirement, her impact as an educator in New Hampshire is and continues to be immense.

Many educators honored for education excellence

Jessica Bouchard, Milford High School, Milford: NHAEA is pleased to announce Milford High School's Jessica Bouchard, as the Art Educator of the Year 2022.



JESSICA BOUCHARD

Bouchard's many years of teaching at the Middle and High School levels show her dedication to her students, school community, and statewide art programs. She has served on the Board of Directors for both the NHAEA, and the New Hampshire Scholastic Art Awards, and has worked with students in such community projects as Empty Bowls, school exhibitions, and STEAM events.

In the classroom, Jess brings her passion for teaching and learning in the Visual Arts by combining the details of her own artistic process with an intellectual rigor that incorporates deep understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of the arts and creativity.

Her colleague Beth Haverkamp Powers writes:

"Jess is humane and encouraging in the face of shifting educational sands, and she is motivated to keep focus on the dangers of apathy in the modern world. She stands out as an unwavering professional."

Adriana Cauley, Pembroke Academy, Pembroke: The New Hampshire Association of World Language Teachers has selected Adriana Cauley as the 2022 Janis Hennessey Outstanding World Language Teacher of the Year.



ADRIANA CAULEY

Cauley is a French teacher who runs a very active program and takes students on field trips to Montreal and all over New England. One of her greatest achievements was her development of the "Fête de la Francophonie," an event held at her school where she invited other schools and involved the Franco-American Center in a quest to raise awareness and enthusiasm for the French language in New Hampshire.

Cauley impresses her col-

leagues with her passion and dedication for the French language and culture, her cultural perspective, and her sympathy and care for both her students and colleagues.

Susan Noseworthy, Lincoln Street Elementary School, Exeter: The New Hampshire Music Educator Association has selected Susan Noseworthy as the 2022 Distinguished Music Educator of the Year.



SUSAN NOSEWORTHY

Noseworthy is completing her final year of an amazing career teaching elementary school music. Throughout the entire duration of her career she has served as a role model to many music educators in our State.

Within the Exeter district, she serves as a mentor to new music teachers. At the state level, she teaches coursework in elementary general music methods at the University of New Hampshire. Her impact on the next generation of music educators is vast and will serve the students of New Hampshire for years to

come.

Tristan Bowen, Riddle Brook Elementary School, Bedford: The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teacher (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science



TRISTAN BOWEN

teaching. Awardees go through a rigorous application and review process, both at the state level, and if moved forward, at the national level.

The award recognizes those teachers who have both deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas.

As an awardee, Bowen reflects the expertise and dedication of the nation's teaching corps, and demonstrates the positive impact of excellent teachers on student achievement.

BLASTOS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Martin worked tirelessly to create certificate program

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Association of School Business Officials has selected Stephen Martin of Milford as this year's recipient of the Alexander J. Blastos Distinguished Service Award.



STEPHEN MARTIN

Martin was chosen in recognition of his many years of service to NHASBO. Throughout his years of executive leadership, Steve contributed significantly to the growth and advancement of the organization and profession.

He is recognized for having built infrastructure, including policies, and implementing contemporary technologies to support operations. Martin implemented web-based accounting systems and the NHASBO membership program and communications portal.

In particular, Martin is commended for his tireless work to develop the certificate program and courses that provide a path to business administrator licensure in New Hampshire.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Wormald integral in working with mentor program

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE School Administrator Association has selected Dr. Randy Wormald, Merrimack Valley School District, Penacook, for the 2022 Outstanding Service Award.



DR. RANDY WORMALD

Wormald was selected for this honor by a panel of his peers and from a distinguished group of nominees.

Superintendent of Schools for SAU 46, Mark MacLean, stated, "Randy is an outstanding educator and educational leader. His focus on improving and

innovating educational programming and services is unrelenting. Randy is a catalyst and cheerleader for a positive SAU #46 culture and climate. He has been integral in working with the mentor program to welcome and acclimate new teachers. The positive changes to this program have been immeasurable."

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS OF THE YEAR

Bagley is a partner committed to 'all children and youth'

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Association of Special Education Administrators is honored to present Marcia Bagley, Director of Special Education for Nashua School District, as one of two New Hampshire Special Education Administrators of the Year for 2022.

Bagley is known for developing comprehensive learning and networking opportunities and for being a collaborative partner committed to "all children and youth" regardless of their challenges.

The educational community of Nashua describes Bagley as demonstrating the highest professional standards when it comes to leadership in the school district, dedicating countless hours to Nashua's children and youth with disabilities.

Bagley is an active member of NHASEA serving on several committees and is recognized by her colleagues as a resource on a variety of important topics.



MARCIA BAGLEY

Plourde is ultimate professional who leads with her heart

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE Association of Special Education Administrators is honored to name Catherine Plourde, Oyster River Cooperative School District Director of Student Services, as one of two New Hampshire Special Education Administrators of the Year for 2022.

Plourde is an outstanding leader who has demonstrated the capacity to take on a wide range of duties both within special education and outside of those parameters. She has become known for caring unconditionally about children, families, and staff.

Plourde is regarded by her Oyster River colleagues for getting the best out of people, recognizing their work and establishing positive relationships. The educational community describes Plourde as the ultimate professional who leads with her heart and is a strong advocate for students with exceptionalities.



CATHERINE PLOURDE

EDies ceremony presenters

Co-Masters of Ceremonies

Bryan Belander
Principal at Seabrook Elementary School and Past Chair of the EDies Board

Sean McDonald
Morning Anchor WMUR and co-host of "NH Chronicle"

Presenters

Chuck Bates
Executive Director
N.H. Association of School Business Officials

Christine Brennan
Deputy Commissioner of Education
N.H. Department of Education

Angel Burke
2022 Co-Chair
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Kim Carpentino
President
N.H. Association of School Principals

Richard Carroll
President
GESKUS

Barrett M. Christina
Executive Director
N.H. School Boards Association

Rep. Glenn Cordelli
Chair
N.H. House Education Committee

Ken Darsney
Principal
Franklin Middle School

Collette Flanders
2022 Co-Chair
N.H. Excellence in Education

Kim Grace
Area Supervisor
The Napoli Group, LLC/McDonald's

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Amy Yeakel
Lakes Region Chairperson
New Hampshire Extended Learning Opportunity Network

Paul Yergeau
Director
N.H. Excellence in Education

EDie Winners

Stacy Millington-Hyjek, Enfield Elementary School, Enfield: The Council for Exceptional Children N.H. has named Stacy Millington-Hyjek from Enfield



STACY MILLINGTON-HYJECK

Elementary School as the 2022 CEC-NH Special Education Teacher of the Year.

Millington-Hyjek signifies what it means to be an exceptional teacher in which she brings her professional experience and skills along with her human skills to

really let each child shine bright through their unique traits.

Through her patience and empathy, children not only get the individualized help they need but they surpass expectations in many instances. She teaches the whole child which means that she cares about the academic, behavioral, and family of a student.

Sean Peschel, Oyster River High School, Durham: NHAEA is pleased to announce Oyster River's Sean Peschel, as the Extended Learning Opportunity 2022 Coordinator of the Year.

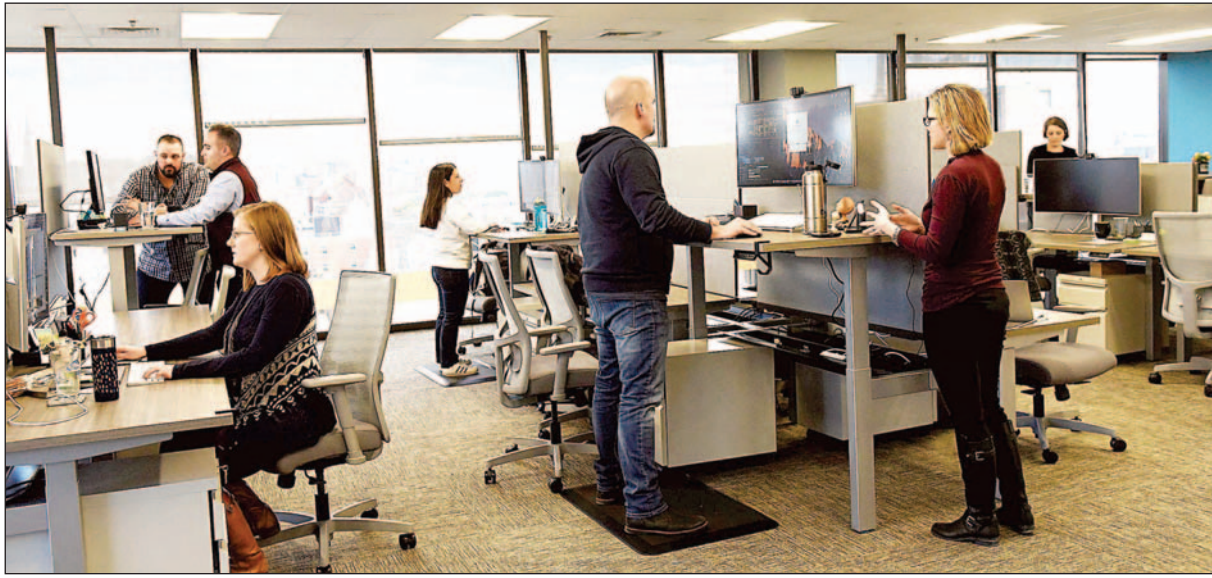


SEAN PESCHEL

Through his role he is able to provide a vast array of career exploration and credit-bearing learning opportunities, including job shadows and career speakers series to industry tours and internships.

During Peschel's tenure at Oyster River High School, he established a robust and rigorous ELO program. He builds vital relationships with community members and with ELO Coordinators throughout the state to ensure students have access to learning opportunities. School counselor Heather Machanoff said, "Sean is a wonderful student advocate, and he is a dedicated professional. He takes the many stakeholders and brings them together allowing students to create meaningful experiences in high school."

Manchester's Forcivity sold to Boston-based Apps Associates



Staff work at Forcivity, a high-tech startup in downtown Manchester in 2020. A Boston-based company recently acquired Forcivity.

By Jonathan Phelps
New Hampshire Union Leader

About a year after merging with a New York company, Forcivity, a Manchester tech company, has been acquired by a Boston-based company.

The company was founded in 2015 as a Salesforce consultancy and system integrator.

Apps Associates, an application advisory services company, bought Forcivity in March. The company provides strategic consulting and managed services for Oracle, Salesforce, integration, analytics and multi-cloud infrastructure, according to its website.

Project demand for Salesforce services is growing, according to Paul Vian, senior

vice president of sales and marketing.

"The extremely valuable talent and expertise from Forcivity has not only helped us to start addressing that demand, but its broadened offerings within our Salesforce portfolio — particularly for Service Cloud," he wrote in an email to the Union Leader.

In 2020, Forcivity moved into an eighth-floor suite at Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St. No decisions have been made on the future of the space, Vian said.

"Our primary focus has been on our people and making sure that everyone gets acclimated and settled in, regardless of

► See Forcivity, Page B6



Money
Sense

Marc Hebert

All about group disability insurance

WHEN PEOPLE think of their most valuable asset, they usually think of their home or investment portfolio. But for most, it really is the ability to earn a living. Consider what your financial life would be like if you weren't able to work for an extended length of time.

Disability insurance may help provide you the income you need in the event you are injured or unable to work. Disability insurance is sometimes offered through groups that have a common interest, such as an employer or trade group. Group disability insurance can be an affordable source of this important coverage.

With group disability insurance coverage, you are not issued an individual policy nor are you evaluated for coverage as an individual. Instead, the policy is issued to the company or organization that represents the group. The individuals within the group that apply for disability insurance are issued certificates of coverage rather than individual policies.

There are two types of group disability coverage: short-term and long-term.

Short-term coverage plans generally pay benefits for a few months, although sometimes it can be as long as two years. These policies are often designed to be effective until long-term coverage kicks in.

Long-term disability coverage may pay benefits for several years or until a certain age, such as 65. The long-term benefits are usually coordinated with the benefits from the short-term plan so the disability coverage is continuous.

When reviewing group disability insurance, here are some things to keep in mind:

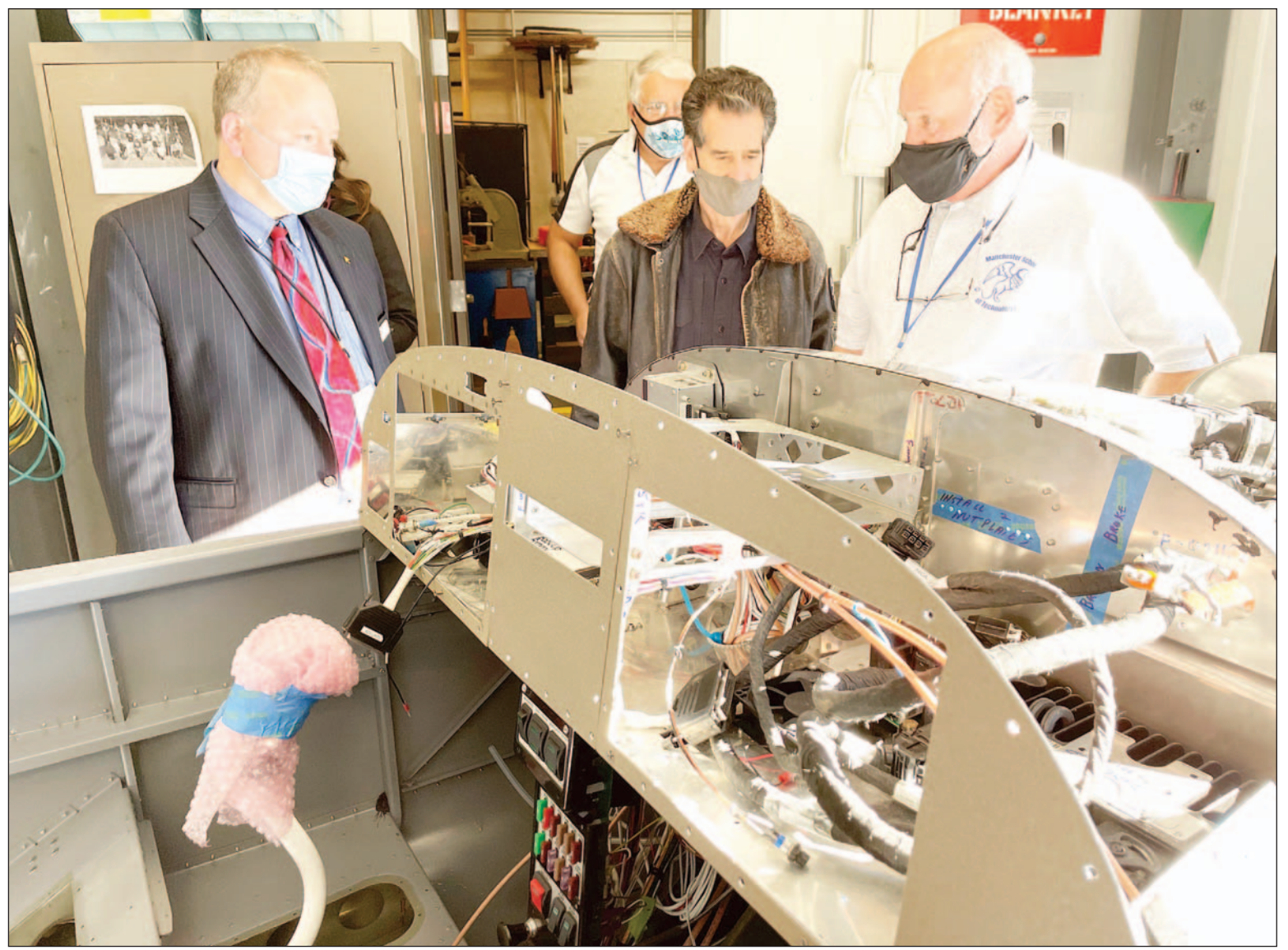
Group disability often has flexible underwriting. During the initial or open enrollment periods, you may not have to pass a physical to join the plan. This is because the risk of disability is borne by the group rather than by an individual.

The plans may have a certain base benefit that allow the participant to add on other benefits at a cost.

When you leave your job or terminate your relationship with the group, you

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Granite State generosity



Aviation Museum of NH volunteer Jack Barry, right, who mentors students and manages the plane-build project at Manchester School of Technology, shows Bedford inventor Dean Kamen, center, and Jeff Rapsis, executive director of the museum, a section of plane being built by students during a visit in November. The museum's board of directors will match donations during Tuesday's NH Gives campaign up to \$10,000.

NH Gives helps summer sizzle for nonprofit fundraising

NEW HAMPSHIRE nonprofits are hopeful Granite Staters will share their summer stash during a 24-hour fundraising drive this week.

Kicking off at 5 p.m. Tuesday, nearly 600 nonprofits will be participating in NH Gives, an annual online event.

Last year, more than 14,000 people donated \$3.8 million to 584 nonprofits through NHGives.org., according to the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits, which launched NH Gives in 2016.

Since then, the event has raised \$8.7 million. The partici-

NH
Business

Mike Cote

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pating nonprofits provide a variety of services, including feeding the hungry, mentoring youth and promoting the arts.

"NH Gives is a powerful way for Granite Staters to come together to show our support for the nonprofits that are there for us when we need them the most," said Kathleen Reardon, CEO of the NH Center for Nonprofits, in a statement. "Every donation can make a difference."

Those donations can get an extra boost through nearly \$900,000 in bonus pool funds and matching gifts.

A \$240,000 bonus pool made possible by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and its donors will award nonprofits based on the percentage of funds

they raise during the campaign. If a nonprofit raises 2 percent of the grand total, for example, it will receive 2 percent of the bonus pool.

In addition, donors have pledged more than \$650,000 to match donations to specific nonprofits. The board of directors of the Aviation Museum of N.H., for example, announced a matching challenge of \$10,000.

Donations will support the Aviation Museum's youth education programs, which include a high school student plane-building

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AIRLINES

Frontier offers to pay Spirit if takeover bid fails

By Mary Schlangen
Bloomberg

Frontier Group Holdings Inc. sweetened the terms of its takeover offer for Spirit Airlines Inc. and won support from a key proxy advisory firm, giving the ultra-discount carrier new momentum as it tries to fend off a rival bid by Jet-Blue Airways Corp.

Frontier agreed to pay \$250 million, or \$2.23 a share, to Spirit if the deal collapses because of objections from U.S. regulators, the airlines said in a joint

statement late Thursday. Spirit had earlier rejected JetBlue's offer, which includes a similar \$200 million fee, over concerns that regulatory hurdles would prevent it from being completed.

The revised terms, which have been approved by the boards of both Frontier and Spirit, could help sway some shareholders ahead of a June 10 vote on the stock-and-cash deal initially valued at \$2.9 billion. It would combine carriers that offer

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Lania Rittenhouse of Spirit Airlines gives a thumbs-up to Jon Vollmar of Naples, Fla., who was the first passenger to deplane from Spirit's inaugural flight to Manchester-Boston Regional Airport in Manchester in October. Frontier has sweetened the terms of its proposed takeover of Spirit, which was initially valued at \$2.9 billion.

Mike Cote

From Page B5

program under way at the Manchester School of Technology, said Jeff Rapsis, the museum's executive director.

"We're not a big nonprofit. That (\$10,000) represents a good chunk of our annual budget right there," Rapsis said Friday. "The board was convinced this was the way to go to encourage others to participate in this innovative project."

Rapsis said the project, which has already completed two planes, is a great example of a nonprofit collaborating with the business community. Most of the costs for the construction of the next three planes will be paid for through the sale of the first two. The nonprofit is working on a sustaining fund to pay for related expenses.

"The larger donations have come from businesses that are interested in workforce development," he said. "But significantly, we've had a third of the donations to support this project come from individual contributors."

Former WMUR-TV political director Scott Spradling and Greg Kretschmar, host of Greg & the Morning Buzz on Rock 101-FM, will be emceeding NH Gives for the second year in a row through live streams on NHGives.org and Facebook from 4:45 to 9 p.m. Tuesday and from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday from the NH

PBS studios in Durham. They'll be talking with nonprofit leaders as well as presenting prerecorded material.

"We're getting the band back together and doing it again," Spradling said Friday. "We have high hopes that folks will dig deep again."

The event aims to remind people that nonprofits need help year-round — now just during the Christmas season.

"The reason we do it now is because this tends to be perhaps that time of year when folks are shifting their attention to everything but helping others because it's the end of school, it's summer and it's personal time ... when people unplug for the summer," he said.

On Tuesday, Spradling expects many of them will plug back in to support their favorite nonprofits.

"This is one of those examples of the humbling experience to witness the generosity of our state," Spradling said. "And people just give. They recognize this is how we do things around here, and this is why our quality of life is so high."

Mike Cote is senior editor for news and business. Contact him at mcote@unionleader.com or (603) 206-7724.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Inflation, confidence and doubt in a soft landing

By Tom Hudson
Miami Herald

Sell in May and go away is the tired investing adage. Well, will the investment markets now swoon in June?

Talk of an impending recession grew much louder in May even without accompanying economic data pointing to an economy on the edge of contracting. There's a lot of momentum in the economy, but stock investors are worried it is coasting, as consumers burn through pandemic savings. JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon warned last week he thinks consumers have six to nine months of spending power left.

In the week ahead, consumer inflation and consumer sentiment data will be in focus.

There have been early signs that

inflation may have peaked. April's core Personal Consumption Expenditures — the Federal Reserve's favored inflation gauge — slowed a fraction from its blistering acceleration earlier in the year. Any pull back in the annual rate of the CPI is good news, but it will be tough given the climbing price of gasoline and food. Economic optimists rightly will focus on core CPI — stripping out the effect of pump and grocery prices. The Fed knows its actions have very little impact on fuel and food prices. Instead, it wants to see demand for goods and services soften without collapsing. That's the soft landing scenario it hopes for.

Consumer attitudes about the future are pretty sour. Five-dollar-a-gallon gasoline will do that. That dwindling confidence six months

out dovetails with Dimon's gloomy forecast.

Shoppers and investors know interest rates will rise as the Fed continues fighting inflation. The higher cost of borrowing is likely to cool consumer appetites for big ticket items such as appliances, cars and homes. The stock market is responding now to what is expected to be less demand and a slowdown in earnings growth in the future.

Whether investment markets will be a bummer this summer for long-term investors rests on the station of inflation for consumers.

Financial journalist Tom Hudson hosts "The Sunshine Economy" on WLRN-FM in Miami, where he is the vice president of news. He is the former co-anchor and managing editor of "Nightly Business Report" on public television. Follow him on Twitter @HudsonsView.

MoneySense

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usually can't take your group disability coverage with you. These policies generally can't be converted into an individual policy.

The benefit may be reduced by payments you receive from worker's compensation, Social Security, or other government benefits.

The premium may be paid by you, your employer, or both. Depending on who pays the premium, the benefit may be taxable or not. Usually, if the premium is paid on a pre-tax basis, the benefit will be taxable to you. This is an area you will need to discuss with your advisor.

When reviewing your particular plan, consider the following:

How long do the benefits last once you become disabled? Are there additional limits that depend on the

type of disability? For example, is there a different time limit if the disability is due to an addiction?

How long is the elimination period? This is the time frame you will have to wait before receiving disability benefits.

How much of your income does the policy replace? Policies typically pay a benefit equal to 50% to 66% of your gross monthly base salary. The benefit may also be capped at a monthly amount.

What is the definition of disability? Generally, you must be under the care of a doctor due to an illness or injury that impairs your ability to work in either "your own occupation" or in "any occupation." Disability could also be defined as any occupation for which you might

be qualified based on your education, experience or training. Or your policy's definition might be a combination consisting of your "own occupation" for a certain period and "any occupation" for timeframes thereafter.

It is important to look at other aspects of your financial life to determine if the disability income benefits will be enough to get you through the tough times. Areas to consider are the expenses you could reduce if disabled, your cash reserves, and your other sources of income.

Marc A. Hebert, MS, CFP, is a senior member of the wealth management and financial planning firm The Harbor Group of Bedford. Email questions to Marc at mhebert@harbargroup.com. Your question and his response might appear in a future column.

Forcivity

From Page B5

where they choose to work," he said.

The acquisition allows Apps Associates to have "differentiating capabilities to help our combined clients improve their customer experience by leveraging all facets of Salesforce service," Vian said.

Last year, Forcivity merged with New York-based Jolt Consulting Group LLC.

For two years, Forcivity was New Hampshire's top company to land on Inc. Magazine's annual list of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies in America.

"This acquisition is a plus on so many fronts — for Apps Associates and Forciv-

ity clients alike," said Steve Baines, president and chief growth officer at Forcivity. "From our perspective, our client portfolio will now have access to a broader array of services to aid in their technology transformations — including access to global expertise and resources."

Forcivity became App Associates' fifth acquisition.

Vian said the acquisition will create a range of career development options and opportunities for the combined workforce.

"The acquisition of Forcivity was a right-place, right-time situation that created a win-win for everyone," he said.

jphelps@unionleader.com

Airlines

From Page B5

bare-bones fares and charge for anything extra.

The agreement is "the best available and most actionable" alternative for Spirit shareholders, proxy analysis firm Glass Lewis & Co. said in a report.

"There are likely few, if any, other logical potential acquirers that represent a better fit for the company than Frontier in terms of scale, operations, business model, geographic fit and regulatory certainty," Glass Lewis said. While JetBlue's offer is higher in value, it hasn't sufficiently addressed Spirit's concerns that the bid couldn't win approval from federal antitrust enforcers, it said.

JetBlue didn't immediately comment on the Glass Lewis report.

The latest developments come several days after another proxy adviser, Institutional Shareholder Services

Inc., recommended Spirit shareholders reject the Frontier takeover agreement as a signal to the board to engage more with JetBlue over its competing bid. It also noted the lack of a reverse termination payment at that time.

While both deals face regulatory risks, JetBlue's all-cash offer was superior from a financial standpoint, ISS said. Spirit rejected JetBlue's \$3.6 billion original offer, prompting a subsequent hostile \$3.3 billion tender bid.

A combination of Frontier and Spirit would become the fifth-largest U.S. airline in terms of domestic passenger traffic, jumping ahead of Alaska Air Group Inc. and JetBlue. It would be the "premier national ultra-low-cost challenger" to the four largest U.S. carriers, Glass Lewis said.

Frontier agreed to add the reverse

breakup fee after talks with Spirit shareholders "who have expressed support for the strategic rationale of our combination but a desire for additional stockholder protections," Spirit Chief Executive Officer Ted Christie said in a statement Thursday.

JetBlue said in a statement following the fee announcement that Spirit sought the change "when it became increasingly clear their shareholders would decisively reject the Spirit board's flawed process and Frontier's inferior transaction." The airline will review the revised terms once the amended agreement is made available, it said.

Separate from the reverse termination payment, Frontier's agreement with Spirit also includes a \$94.2 million breakup fee payable to Frontier if the deal wasn't completed.

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