



COURTESY PHOTO
Cohort 1, made up of 22 school administrators, will complete the Executive Development for School Leaders Program of the National Institute for School Leadership next month at North Country Education Services (NCES), thanks to a \$70,000 grant from The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund and funds from the state Department of Education. Cohort 2 starts the intensive program this month.

44 North Country school leaders to complete special program

BY EDITH TUCKER
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GORHAM — Two cohorts that together total 44 North Country school administrators and leaders are participating in the 13-month-long Executive Development for School Leaders Program of the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL), thanks to a \$70,000 grant from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund plus funds from the state Department of Education.

Cohort 1 will finish the intensive program next month.

Cohort 2 begins its work this month.

"The NISL program is a highly acclaimed and internationally benchmarked professional development program for school administrators designed to transform principals from managers of school operations to dynamic instructional leaders focused on accelerating student learning," explained Lori Langlois, executive director of the North Country Education Services (NCES) which is the sponsoring organization where the program is held.

"The program emphasizes the role of administrators as strategic thinkers, instructional leaders, and

creators of a just, fair, and caring culture in which all students meet high standards," Langlois emphasized. "It ensures that these school leaders develop the knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively set direction for teachers, support their staffs, and design an efficient organization."

The Executive Development for School Leaders Program brings each cohort together for two days a month over a 13-month period.

Over \$11 million was invested in the research and development of NISL programs after three years of studies by the National Center on Education and the Economy concluded that the public education sector does not prepare its leaders as well as other fields, such as law, medicine, and business. These studies identified the need for research-based, job-embedded, cohort-centered, and scalable leadership development, Langlois pointed out.

Cohort 1, shown in the photo, includes Corinne Cascadden, left, front row, Superintendent SAU 3; Dan Record, Principal Berlin Middle School; Judith McGann, Superintendent SAU 68; Robert Scott, Assistant Principal Groveton High School; Jordan Burke, As-

sistant Principal Haverhill Cooperative Middle School; Tina Binette, Assistant Principal Gorham Middle-High School; Joanne Melanson, Principal Colebrook Academy; Janet Strauss (facilitator), Paul Bousquet, Superintendent SAU 20; Amy Huter, Principal Brown School; Jonan Torsey, left, middle row, Principal Piermont School; Karen Conroy, Director of Technology SAU 58; Dr. Carl Ladd (facilitator, Supt. SAU 58), Lisa Burbach, Special Education Administrator SAU 58; Mike Kelley, Principal Groveton High School; David Backler, Principal Milan Village School; Ben Jellison, Dean of Students Lisbon Regional School; Adam Houghton, Assistant Principal Rochester Middle School (formerly SAU 23); Pierre Couture, left, back row, Superintendent SAU 35; Karen Moore, Principal Edward Fenn Elementary; Brent Walker, Principal Haverhill Cooperative Middle School; Tanya Patterson, Teacher Lakeway Elementary; and Traci Howard, Curriculum-Instructional Coach Lakeway Elementary. Alas, Laurie Melanson, Principal Warren Village School, is absent.

Cohort 2, not yet photographed, includes another 22 school leaders: Angel-

ique Brown, Groveton Elementary School; Brenda Lamarque, Edward Fenn Elementary; Bridget Gagne, Stark Village School; Courtney Vashaw, Profile School; David Co-vill, Pittsburg School; Erin Silver, Stratford Public School; Gordie Johnk, Lafayette Regional; Heather Zybas, Pittsburg School; Jen Corrigan, Gorham Middle High School; Jennifer Carbonneau, Littleton High School; Jessie Lanh-am, Profile School; Julie King, Hillside School; Kim Wheelock, Groveton High School; Lisa Lavoie, North Country Charter Academy; Lori Langlois, NCES; Patricia Styles, Groveton Elementary, Stark & Stratford; Randy Messineo, Berlin Middle School; Sandra Adams, Stratford School; Shelli Roberts, Bethlehem Elementary; Eddie Marceau, MC2 Charter School; Cheryl Pinette, Hillside School; and Veronique Legendre, Berlin High School.

SAU 58 Supt. Dr. Carl Ladd is serving as Cohort 2's lead facilitator, with co-facilitation provided by Supt. Paul Bousquet and Dave Backler, both of SAU 20. The program features guest lectures for various subject areas, including Dr. Andrew Chen for mathe-

Coös economic development funds support Grand Prix promotion

BY EDITH TUCKER
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LANCASTER — The efforts of the Lancaster Snow Drifters, working in conjunction with the town's 250th birthday committee, to hold a weekend of events on Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Kilkenny Cup" snowmobile race was recently given a big boost.

The Coös Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) granted \$9,820 to the Snow Drifters to hire the Sullivan Creative advertising firm of Concord to brand, market and promote the Lancaster Grand Prix weekend, including the "Kilkenny Cup" race — the oldest snowmobile race in the U.S. The Snow Drifters are also working with the Northern New York Snowsledd Racers that in 2006 successfully revived its own vintage race.

The nearly \$10,000 grant is part of \$35,000 that the county delegation of state representatives allocated to the CEDC in the 2013 county budget so it could act as a conduit in granting these funds to applicants. The county's economic development dollars only represent about nine percent of its assets, explained CEDC spokesman Chris Diego, managing director of the Mountain View Grand in Whitefield, in an e-mail exchange. Earlier in 2013, the CEDC granted county taxpayer dollars to support the "Ride the Wilds" interconnected ATV trail initiative, demonstrating that many county residents believe that motorized recreation will be an even more important aspect of tourism.

The Snow Drifters (www.lancastersnowdrifters.org) aim to draw 4,000 to 5,000 spectators, racers, and vendors to the county seat and

other communities over that weekend. The Club hopes to make this its annual signature event, creating a demand for hotels, restaurants and other services.

A series of events (www.lancastergrandprix.com) are planned to whet the appetite of both participants and spectators, the promoters point out. The weekend's excitement begins from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, January 31, with a Vintage Sled Show at Crane's Museum off Main Street. The museum's 85 machines trace the evolution of snowmobiling, from the Ski-Doo machines of the 1960s to today's modern sleds.

That evening, from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., enjoy cocktails, dinner, music and dancing at the Kilkenny Cup Ball at the Mountain View Grand in Whitefield.

The highlights of the following day, Saturday, Feb. 1, include the Northern New York Vintage Snowsledd Racers — about 90 racers from the Boonesville, N.Y. circuit — competing on the quarter-mile oval ice track at the Lancaster Fairgrounds on Route 3. Gates open at 7 a.m., and racing begins at 9 a.m. with cash prizes. Later in the day, enjoy a parade of snowmobiles from the Lancaster Fairgrounds down Main Street and back, followed by a bonfire.

Vintage sled racing and the running of the Lancaster Grand Prix on the ice track at the Lancaster Fairgrounds rounds out the weekend's events on Sunday, with the gates once again opening at 7 a.m., and racing starting at 9 a.m., with cash prizes awarded.

The class winners from both days of racing will earn the thrill of having their names inscribed on the historic Kilkenny Cup, joining past winners in what reads like a Snowmobile Hall of Fame.

Leadership Class Visits the Town of Errol

ERROL—On December 3, twelve members of the current Leadership North Country class spent one half-day learning about government and politics, followed by a presentation from Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Paul Casey. The leadership development program is funded in part by Public Service of New Hampshire and the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund. Participants learn about public and private resources from North Country leaders how to collaborate to find solutions to area challenges. Leadership North Country consists of nine half-day study sessions at various sites through-

out the North Country. Shown in the photo from left to right: Fred King, County Treasurer, Jeff Woodburn, New Hampshire State Senator, Brian Bresnahan, North Country Constituent Services Representative for Ann McLane Kuster U.S. Congresswoman from the 2nd Congressional District of New Hampshire, and Jim Wheeler, Berlin City Manager. Applications for Leadership North Country are available through the WMCC website--www.wmcc.edu - under the "Workforce Development" heading. For additional information contact Tamara Roberge, Project Manager at troberge@ccsnh.edu or call 342-3062.

Northern Pass secures ISO New England interconnection approval

BY EDITH TUCKER
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MANCHESTER — Northern Pass, a proposed 1,200-megawatt transmission line designed to carry hydroelectric power from Quebec to New Hampshire and New England, cleared an important regulatory milestone on Dec. 31, 2013, by securing "I.3.9 approval" from ISO New England, the regional power grid operator.

"We are pleased with ISO New England's findings on this issue as it's the culmination of years of hard work by our project team," said Northern Pass spokesperson Mike Skelton in a prepared statement. "We look forward to continuing this progress as the federal and state permitting processes continue in 2014."

Northern Pass is "still projecting a mid-2017 in-service date," Skelton

replied in response to an inquiry.

The I.3.9 process determines whether Northern Pass can reliably interconnect with the New England grid, Skelton explained. By approving the project's I.3.9 application, ISO-NE determined Northern Pass would have no significant, adverse effect on the reliability or operating characteristics of the regional energy grid and its participants. All energy projects must secure this approval in order to be connected to the regional power grid.

This is just one of many regulatory steps that Northeast Utilities must clear as it seeks final approval for the estimated \$1.4 billion project.

Approval was given despite the fact that on Dec. 19 the New England Power Pool Reliability Committee (RC), a committee of market participants that

advise ISO-NE, declined to support the application because of concerns about the proposed line's effect on existing power generators.

ISO New England's five-page approval letter written by Stephen Rourke, ISO-NE Vice President of System Planning, to Dennis Carberry of Northeast Utilities, explains, however, that the RC's non-binding recommendation was not upheld. Rourke writes, "Having given due consideration to the RC review and discussion, ISO New England has determined that implementation of the plan will not have a significant adverse effect upon the reliability or operating characteristics of Northern Utilities, the transmission facilities of another transmission owner or the system of any other market participant." Rourke details a number of conditions that

must be met, including technical equipment requirements, completion of further system impact studies (SISs), and the prohibition of exporting electricity from New England to Quebec because that possibility was not analyzed.

Northern Pass is also specifically directed to require that Hydro Quebec TransEnergie, its Canadian partner, mitigate the risk of a single event that could cause the loss of both its High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) and the Hydro Quebec Phase II HVDC at the transmission line crossing south of the HQ Nicolet Substation in Quebec by a method ISO New England finds acceptable. Rourke states, "This can be accomplished by undergrounding the Northern Pass Transmission HVDC (line) at the crossing or another method found to be suitable."

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