



MAINE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

AT GOOD WILL-HINCKLEY

CONTACT:

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

FIRST GRADUATION AT MAINE'S FIRST CHARTER SCHOOL SET FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 2ND AT 5 P.M.

The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences at Good Will-Hinckley will graduate its first class of 10 students

HINCKLEY, MAINE (Friday, July 26, 2013) – The first charter school graduation in Maine history will take place next Friday, August 2nd for the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences at Good Will-Hinckley.

Ten seniors will graduate from the high school, which enrolled 46 students in total during its first year in operation as Maine's first charter school. The school operates on a year-round calendar.

The media and members of the public are welcome to attend the graduation, which will include an address by Maine Education Commissioner Stephen Bowen and a keynote speech from acclaimed author and graduate of Good Will-Hinckley Bernd Heinrich. A number of scholarships also will be presented, including the first *Mitchell Scholarship* to be awarded to a charter school graduate.

Heinrich is a professor emeritus in the biology department at the University of Vermont and is the author of a number of books about biology, behavior, nature and evolution. A record-setting runner, Heinrich may be best known for his book, *Why We Run: A Natural History*, in which he reflects on the sport of running as a scientist and recounts his performance in the 100 kilometer race that kicked off his ultra-marathon career. He graduated from Good Will-Hinckley as part of the Class of 1959.

- WHAT:** Graduation ceremony at The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
WHEN: Friday, August 2, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: Moody Chapel, campus of Kennebec Valley Community College, adjacent to Good Will-Hinckley/MeANS campus, Route 201, Hinckley, Maine
WHO: Good Will-Hinckley's President and Executive Director **Glenn Cummings, Ed.D.**
Maine Education Commissioner **Stephen Bowen**
Author and scholar **Bernd Heinrich '59**
Honorary degree recipient and GWH Board Chair **Kathryn Hunt**
Graduates, faculty, staff, students and families
NOTE: Members of the media wishing to obtain photographs or arrange interviews with our graduates in advance of the graduation may contact Rebecca Pollard at 207-233-7380.

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