

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Prosperity Unleashed Conference Fosters Collaboration and Action for a Thriving New Hampshire

**Concord, NH – May 9, 2024** – The New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR) Prosperity Unleashed Conference, held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Grappone Center in Concord, brought together over two-hundred business leaders, community members, and stakeholders from across New Hampshire to explore how businesses and communities can work together for shared success.

#### A Vision for a More Sustainable Future

The conference, themed "Prosperity Unleashed: Aligning Business and Community," served as a platform for collaboration and action. Attendees participated in insightful discussions led by experts like renowned author Rebecca Henderson, who explored how businesses can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Sessions covered a wide range of topics, such as:

- **Employee Engagement:** Strategies for fostering a culture of involvement, communication, and empowerment within organizations.
- **Unconscious Bias:** Understanding the impact of unconscious bias on businesses and exploring strategies for creating a more inclusive and welcoming workplace.
- **Building Healthy Communities:** Addressing the social determinants of health and promoting health equity for all NH residents.
- **Climate and Health:** Examining the real-world health effects of climate change on NH families and exploring potential solutions.
- **Empowering Futures:** Strong Public Education, Business Growth, and Thriving Communities Plenary Panel



Keynote Rebecca Henderson. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography

"The Keynote address was heartfelt, urgent, engaging, inspiring and different. The breakout sessions were action oriented and powerful." said Robin Hibbert Tindal, Hypertherm Associates.

The conference also provided ample opportunities for networking and collaboration. Attendees participated in interactive workshops, engaged in thought-provoking discussions, and connected with individuals and organizations from across the state.

"Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the conference yesterday -- particularly Rebecca's masterful keynote and the panels on advocacy. Both called up a latent desire in myself to be more active as a small business voice. I loved how inspired I left and how connected I felt. Like coming home to family & friends, and leaving knowing you would be back soon again." shared Trinnie Houghton, CEO, Ripple Effect Studio.

### **Prosperity Unleashed Awards Recognize Excellence**

In addition to the insightful sessions and networking opportunities, the conference recognized excellence through the presentation of the prestigious Cornerstone and Partnership for Innovation Awards. These awards honor individuals and organizations making significant contributions to aligning business and community interests in New Hampshire. NHBSR is thrilled to reiterate the 2024 award recipients:

- **Cornerstone Award:** Beth Tener – This award recognizes an individual or company exemplifying CSR principles and promoting them within the NH business community.



Michelle Veasey, Beth Tener and Marianne Bradley. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography

- **Cornerstone Innovator Award:** Stonyfield Organics – This award acknowledges a company or individual that has demonstrated sustained leadership in addressing challenges and embracing opportunities that continue to elevate corporate responsibility striving to reach higher and encourage others to engage with them.



Bill Cassidy, CEO, Stonyfield Organics. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography

- Partnership for Innovation Award:** Monadnock Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Coalition (MDEIB) – Recognized for their collaborative efforts and progress on a sustainability initiative that might not otherwise have been possible. Demonstrating creative approaches and measurable results that inspire other business leaders in New Hampshire to take action. NHBSR recognizes the Savings Bank of Walpole and the Keene YMCA for their partnership in creating the MDEIB.



Michelle Veasey, ED of NHBSR, Catt Workman Chair of the MDEIB, Dan Smith, CEO of the Keene Family YMCA, Mark Bodin, President of Savings Bank of Walpole, and Anne Kelly, Vice President of Government Relations at Ceres. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography.

## A Commitment to a Thriving New Hampshire

The Prosperity Unleashed Conference concluded with a renewed commitment from attendees to work together to build a more prosperous and equitable New Hampshire for all. The recognition of outstanding contributions further inspired participants to put their learnings into action and create positive change.



Zack Sheehan, Executive Director of NH School Funding Fairness Project. Photo credit Doug Rathburn Photography.

"The Prosperity Unleashed Conference was a resounding success," said Michelle Veasey, Executive Director of NHBSR. "We strive to foster a spirit of collaboration, with attendees engaging in discussions, sharing best practices, and forging connections that will propel future action."

## NHBSR: Building a Sustainable and Prosperous New Hampshire

NHBSR remains committed to inspiring and supporting businesses in building a more sustainable and prosperous New Hampshire for all.

## Learn More

Visit [www.nhbsr.org](http://www.nhbsr.org) to learn more about NHBSR and its initiatives.

**Special thanks** to presenting sponsor Dartmouth Health and event sponsors: Sustainserv, Hypertherm Associates, 36Creative, Cirtronics, UNH Sustainability Institute, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Business Review, NH Public Radio, NH PBS, Kennebunk Savings, Image 4, LaBelle Winery, Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, Normandeau Associates, Ceres, Northeast Delta Dental, MegaFood, Worthen Industries, Merchants Fleet, Ripple Effect Studio, Cornerstone Financial Planning, Coruway Film Institute, Doug Rathburn Photography, Wanderlust Imaging, and Chop Shop.

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**New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR)** is a member-based non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and supporting businesses in building a more sustainable and prosperous New Hampshire for all. Learn more at [nhbsr.org](http://nhbsr.org).

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