

**Richard J. Killion****Vice President, Chief Strategy & Public Affairs Officer****New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) Network Organizations**

Over a thirty-year career, Rich has served in multiple leadership roles in organizations impacting the disciplines of policy, fundraising, advocacy, public relations, life cycle planning and strategic communications. Either through managing programs or assisting clients, Rich has significant and diverse experience in navigating many through decades of challenging and high-profile endeavors in the non-profit, private-sector and public-sector arenas.

As a first-generation college student, Rich knows the transformational impact a college education has on an individual and one's social mobility.

At the NHHEAF Network Organizations, he serves alongside colleagues devoted to helping students and parents plan and play for college. Rich serves on the executive management team, managing policy, development and communications efforts, while also leading strategy and innovation activities.

Prior to serving at The Organizations, Rich co-founded Elevare Communications, a boutique, strategic communications firm in Concord. At Elevare, Rich developed a reputation for specializing in directing strategic initiatives and projects for high profile institutions and individuals who operate in environments facing continuous change.

Rich also worked at Franklin Pierce University where he served as Managing Director of College Relations, the Director of the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication and Director of the Center for Applied Public Opinion Research. Previously, Rich assisted state governments with compliance efforts on education policy and served as a lead consultant to a Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command program for life cycle planning and integrated logistical support.

A previous strategist and senior advisor to Governor Jeb Bush, Governor Mitt Romney, and Governor Tim Pawlenty, Rich has been active in many public relations initiatives and political campaigns in New Hampshire.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH), serving on the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Governance Committee. Previously, Rich was Chair of the Board of Directors of the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce and served on the boards of the Monadnock Children's Museum and the Keene Elm City Rotary.

Rich earned a B.A. in Economics from Stonehill College and a Master of Public Administration from George Mason University.