

The Granite Guarantee Expands to More USNH Institutions

The successful program launched at UNH will now help even more New Hampshire students obtain their degrees.

January 15, 2018 – The state’s public colleges and universities are becoming more affordable for New Hampshire students with the expansion of the Granite Guarantee program to Keene State College and Plymouth State University. Launched last fall at the University of New Hampshire, the program guarantees free in-state tuition to first-year New Hampshire students whose families qualify for need-based federal Pell Grants. This innovative program has been made possible by a combination of increased fundraising success and a strong focus of efficiency at both the campus and system level.

About 400 students are attending UNH under the Granite Guarantee, which provides free tuition for all four years to students who are enrolled full-time, remain income-eligible and make satisfactory progress toward a degree. The program works by bridging the financial gap between a Pell Grant recipient’s total federal and state package and the cost of in-state tuition.

“The Granite Guarantee lends opportunities for low-income New Hampshire students to seek higher education and explore workforce pathways that may not have otherwise seemed possible,” said Gov. Chris Sununu. “I applaud USNH for expanding this game-changing opportunity for some of New Hampshire’s most high-need students.”

“To be able to expand this program to help even more New Hampshire residents is gratifying, and why public higher education is critical in playing a role to help create our state’s future workforce,” said USNH Chancellor Todd Leach. “We are working hard to ensure our institutions are accessible and affordable to in-state students and their families. The Granite Guarantee is a significant step toward keeping more New Hampshire students in New Hampshire and ultimately strengthening our economy and meeting the state’s growing workforce needs”

Accepted New Hampshire students who are Pell Grant-Eligible are automatically enrolled in the Granite Guarantee. Qualified students must be enrolled full-time for both the spring and fall semesters and meet all the financial aid application deadlines as well as maintain a certain GPA. Eligible students may still have loans to help pay for non-tuition expenses such as fees, books, and room and board.

About USNH

The University System of New Hampshire enrolls 34,000 students, and consists of four public institutions: Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of New Hampshire. USNH strives to ensure the availability of appropriate and accessible higher educational opportunities throughout New Hampshire, as well as address critical state workforce needs. A 29-member Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the University System.

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