



Keene State College and Plymouth State University Offer a New Initiative to Keep More New Hampshire Students in the State

The Public Promise Program will help students find the right educational pathway and help address New Hampshire's critical workforce shortage.

April 19, 2017, Concord - Keene State College and Plymouth State University are pleased to announce a new initiative, **Public Promise**, which is designed to provide students who are not admitted to either Keene State or Plymouth State with alternative pathways to future enrollment at the institutions through the University System and Community College partnership programs. The two institutions are reaching out proactively to all students who applied and were not admitted to this year's incoming class to provide pathways that include associate degree programs, Dual Admission options, and targeted coursework. Once completed, these options would allow students to transfer into the institution of their choice. Dual Admission, announced in 2014, allows a student to complete two years of study at a New Hampshire Community College and seamlessly transfer to a University System of New Hampshire school to complete a four-year degree.

This proactive outreach is being supported by the University System centralized shared-service enrollment center. About 1,000 New Hampshire students who apply to the two institutions every year are not offered admission.

"The hope is that students who may not be offered admission to Plymouth State the first time can attend classes at a community college and prepare for admission at a later term," says Jason Moran, Dean of Enrollment Management for Plymouth. "The University System will work with the student to advise them on the right courses to take, ensuring the courses will transfer to our campus when they are ready."

Kemal Atkins, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Affairs at Keene State College, agrees that **Public Promise** is a good idea for both colleges. “At my previous institution, a similar effort was a remarkable success. Students were given a pathway to attend a two- or four-year school, we kept more students in our state, increased the college going rate and developed an educated workforce for local employers.”

New Hampshire exports the highest percentage of four-year going college students in the country, at a time when businesses are raising significant concerns over the lack of an educated workforce. **Public Promise** is one of many USNH institution-based initiatives aimed at addressing state needs through innovation and institutional partnerships. The initiative focuses on developing strategies that increase the number of students going to college, as well as keeping more of those that plan to enroll in New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Coalition on Business and Health estimates that by 2025, 68% of the jobs in New Hampshire will require a college degree. To meet the workforce demands, the coalition has set a goal of “65 by 25”, or that 65% of New Hampshire residents will have a college degree by 2025.

“This program is a great way to support “65 x 25”, our local students, the community colleges, and employers,” says Amy Schwartz, Associate Vice Chancellor at the University System of New Hampshire. “These are students who want an education, but may need extra preparation to be successful. We see this as a win-win for everyone.”

Public Promise will start this May with outreach to applicants wanting to attend college in the fall of 2017. For more information, please contact Associate Vice Chancellor Schwartz at Amy.schwartz@usnh.edu or 603-862-5099.