

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 10, 2021

Michelle Asha Cooper  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
LBJ Building, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Cooper:

I write in support of the application submitted by White Mountains Community College (WMCC) for funding from the Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant Program. Federal investment will enable WMCC and its partner – Campus Compact for New Hampshire (CCNH) – to implement their North Country Persistence and Continuing Education (PACE) Program and improve postsecondary success for rural students in northern New Hampshire.

White Mountains Community College is the northernmost campus of the Community College System of New Hampshire. It provides its learners with opportunities at multiple locations to receive education and job training that will enhance college readiness and career mobility. Students come from a variety of ages and backgrounds, and they are able to take advantage of hands-on learning experiences through WMCC as well as its many workforce partners.

With support from the Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant Program, WMCC and CCNH will launch a project that will improve rates of postsecondary enrollment, persistence and completion in the most rural communities of northern New Hampshire. North Country PACE will develop career pathways that will align with high-skill, high-wage and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the region. This student-centered program will utilize evidence-based approaches that increase the likelihood of obtaining a degree and entering the workforce. These strategies include the use of formative data, a focus on social belonging and a leveraging of college partnerships to ensure students are college and career ready.

I strongly encourage your consideration of the funding request from White Mountains Community College. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Jarvis in my office at [jon\\_jarvis@shaheen.senate.gov](mailto:jon_jarvis@shaheen.senate.gov) or 603-647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator