

December 13, 2021

Kurrinn Abrams
Office of Postsecondary Education
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

RE: FY2021 Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development (RPED) Grant Program

Dear Ms. Abrams:

I write today in strong support of the application from Campus Compact for New Hampshire and White Mountains Community College (WMCC) for grant funding through the FY2021 Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant Program for their North Country Persistence and Continuing Education (PACE) project.

The North Country PACE project would help improve rates of postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion among students in rural Northern New Hampshire from the development of high-quality career pathways that are aligned with high-wage and growing industries in the region. Through the North Country PACE project, Campus Compact for New Hampshire will work in partnership with WMCC in four key areas: formative data use; college-going culture; college partnership; and comprehensive student supports. Working with schools, students, and families in the region, project activities within this framework will help to increase academic success and postsecondary completion, enhance opportunities for career exploration and work-based learning in Northern New Hampshire, and ensure that students are college and career ready.

Campus Compact and WMCC both have a proven track-record of expanding postsecondary opportunities for students and are well positioned to make the North Country PACE project a success. This project will help better prepare students for success in both college and in the workforce, and create opportunities for graduates and employers in the Northern New Hampshire economy. I strongly encourage you to look favorably upon this application. Please do not hesitate to contact Kerry Holmes-Zack in my office at 603-622-2204 if we can be of further assistance. Thank you for your consideration.

With every good wish,

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator