

Your Semi-Annual News & Updates Spring 2026



1965



1970s



1980s



1990s



1995



2000



2005



White Mountains
Community College

2010-

THE BERLIN REPORTER, BERLIN, N. H. — Thursday, January 27, 1966



Open For Business

Although the New Hampshire Vocational Institute is still under construction, Director Edward Oleson (right) is hard at work here. He has opened a temporary office at 157 Main St., next to Local 75's office. First visitors who dropped by

to look at the floor plans of the institute were Ronaldo Morin, who headed the higher education committee when Berlin was making its pitch for the school, and Acting Mayor Dennis Kilbride. (Staff photo by Warren)

THE BERLIN REPORTER, BERLIN, N. H. — January 24, 1966

Answers To Your Questions About Vocational Institute

Applications for the seven courses of study at the New Hampshire Vocational Institute are arriving daily. Some of the area schools have transferred applications to other vocational institutes to the Berlin school in the past few days.

Some young men recently back from the service are making inquiries and applying for entrance. Their interest in vocational training and continuing their education will provide us an opportunity to reach an important group of young people. The recent extension of the GI Bill should help this group of young men to gain a post-secondary education at a very reasonable cost.

Will the vocational institute offer placement service after graduation?

Yes. The administration and faculty will contact potential employers and any agency, both public and private, that can assist the graduates with placement.

However, placement on a job is not guaranteed. It is expected that students will take an active role in securing positions after they have completed their two year program.

Will there be extra-curricula activities?

Yes. A program will be developed to meet the abilities, needs and interests of the student body consistent with the objectives of the school.

The schools in Concord, Portsmouth and Manchester presently compete in three sports: soccer, basketball and baseball. Their schedule includes games with many New Hampshire colleges and junior colleges as well as vocational institutes in Vermont and Maine. These sports will be supplemented by other educational and recreational activities.

How many application are you getting from North Country students?

We have received preliminary applications, (as of Feb. 14, as follows:

Berlin High	9
Gorham High	2
Haverhill Acad.	2
Kennett High	5
Lancaster High	2
Littleton High	1
Mascoma Valley	1
Notre Dame	11
Total	33

Can adults apply for entrance to the day school program?

Yes, anyone 18 years or over with an interest, aptitude and ability may apply. Applicants must successfully complete the entrance examination given by the institute. Openings are presently available in each of the seven courses of study.

How many people will be working at the school?

These are part of the administrative procedures being worked on at the present. The faculty should consist of 10-12 instructors.

The lesser number to adequately serve the incoming freshmen, the larger number to provide for two classes of students.

Other staff positions in the school such as clerical, secretarial, maintenance, administration, etc. will approximate six to eight persons.

How do I apply for a position?

Find out what jobs are open — read the papers, listen to the radio.

To apply for a position, use the standard state of New Hampshire application blank available at the N. H. Employment Security Office, fill it out and send it to the Department of Personnel, State of New Hampshire, Concord.

Stay connected to WMCC events, success stories and more!

- Join the **FACEBOOK** group: WMCC Alumni Association
- Keep in touch! Contact us through the **Alumni Information Form**

Update from WMCC President Sarmad Saman

Greetings to all White Mountains Community College Alumni. You are an important part of this illustrious institution as you are our ambassadors in your communities, business and the state.

WMCC is the only higher education institution serving the North Country. WMCC serves a region that makes up half of the States geographical area. We continue to provide the required education and workforce training to all that need it in our locality. The College serves around 1800 students annually that are enrolled in a few of our programs.



We have been working very hard to update our building infrastructure. To boilers on the Berlin Campus and the water heater. This was in addition to updating the roof and the lighting on our Northern parking lot. The Littleton campus needs a new HVAC system to that end we submitted a 3 million dollars congressional funding request, and we hope we will be funded. Another major project that is taking place is the renovation of the Nursing and Science labs. This is a \$4.5 million project that should be concluded by August 2026 and the labs should be ready for use for the fall of 2026. The labs will be equipped with the most up to date equipment that would ensure that our students being trained in the state-of-the-art equipment and supplied with all they need. The Nursing program will be increasing the number of its students to reach 40 admitted students by 2028.

Another major item in our prison education program (PEP), as I wrote in my previous letter, we graduated our first cohort of 14 students at a ceremony that took place at the Berlin Department of Correction Facility in May 2025. Since then, we have been provided approvals to offer Behavioral Science Certificate program as a Pell-Eligible Prison Education Program at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility. This is an addition to our offerings of two Associate Degree Programs in Liberal Arts & Business Administration. Another major event is that we are expanding our offering to the Women facility, and we expect another expansion by the Spring of 2027 to the Concord facilities.

The Federal Rural Health Grant and the Governor's GO-NORTH simulation opportunities has a major impact on WMCC. As part of the Scope of Work, White Mountains Community College is a recipient of a mobile SIM unit. This would allow WMCC to offer EMT, Paramedic and other health related training throughout our region. WMCC is additionally one of the four workforce development hubs for the Community College System of NH. This would allow us to increase the numbers of health professionals in our region and support our communities.

WMCC president Sarmad Saman's son Nicholas is a 14-year-old 9th grader that races in the Daredevils Division at Riverside Speedway in Groveton, NH. He ran 8 races last year as he joined late, but this year he aims to run the whole season. The number 35 is part of the 6511 Racing Team which is team registered in NH. He aims to have two cars next year with an additional driver as his plan is to be a team owner/driver and NASCAR is his future goal. In the Fall of 2026 and spring 2027 he aims to complete the Automotive Certificate at WMCC.





On January 27, 2026, we lost beloved WMCC instructor, alumni, active community member, and just one of the best guys in the north country, **Stewart “Stew” White.**



Read Stew’s full obituary on the [Bryant Funeral Home’s](#) site.

On January 30, 2026, WMCC friends, past and present welding instructors, students and alumni gathered at WMCC to remember Stew.



From First Chair to First Career: Welding a Future Through Early College

Posted on February 4, 2026 to the [CCSNH Newsletter](#):

Lin-Wood Public School sits just a stone’s throw away from Loon Mountain Resort’s South Peak (Loon). For Ryder McAfee, that proximity shaped both his high school experience and his future career path. Most afternoons, Ryder would swap his book bag for his ski bag, heading straight to the mountain once the final bell rang.

While most skiers appreciate first tracks on bluebird days and wind chills upward of negative digits, Ryder has a passion for the mechanics and technical intricacies of ski lifts.

“In the future I want to be an engineer. Specifically, I want to build ski lifts,” said Ryder.

His passion brought him to Loon on December 10, 2021, at 5:30 a.m. to be on the first customer chair to ride Loon’s Kancamagus 8, or Kanc 8, one of North America’s most technologically advanced chairlifts.

Manufactured by Doppelmayr, the world’s largest ropeway producer, the Kanc 8 is an eight -passenger bubble lift with ergonomically shaped heated seats that comfortably carries 3,500 skiers per hour to the top of Loon’s most popular trails.

[READ RYDER’S STORY HERE](#)

Congratulations to WMCC Alumnus

It’s no secret that WMCC’s welding program graduates are in demand by the industry, and one of their grads just gave another reason why. In March, at the Associated Builders and Contractors National Craft Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah, WMCC alumni Carlos Centeno (class of 2024) won gold as part of the Cianbro team among more than 200 competitors from across the country.

Congratulations Carlos!



Carlos Centeno takes home the gold!
Photo by Cianbro



Ryder McAfee pursues his passion

WMCC Receives Competitive Grant to Expand Higher Education in Prison Programming

September 29, 2025

White Mountains Community College (WMCC) was one of five New England institutions to receive a \$100,000 grant in August 2025 to expand access to higher education in prison programming and support re-entry after incarceration. The grant was awarded through the New England Prison Education Collaborative (NEPEC), a five-year initiative funded by Ascendium Education Group to implement recommendations from a 2023 report from the New England Board of Higher Education on the future of higher education in prison.

WMCC began offering liberal arts and business administration associate degree programs at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility (NNHCF) in Berlin in March 2023. In May 2025, the first cohort of students graduated with their degrees in a ceremony attended by over 100 people. That month, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (NHDOC) honored WMCC as Community Partner of the Year for its success in expanding higher education to NNHCF.

[READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

WMCC's "Cabinet" is Stocked



Food insecurity can negatively impact learning. Students are better able to focus and succeed academically when they have access to proper nourishment. WMCC supports all students by offering The Cabinet, a food pantry offering non-perishable items. The Cabinet provides snacks, pre-packaged meals, and to go items free of charge. These resources are open to all students, regardless of how they attend classes, and are designed to help remove basic needs as a barrier to success.

The Cabinet also hosts a special event each semester. The largest of which is held in the fall semester when we distribute Thanksgiving Meal Kits along with a gift card to a local grocery store. This spring we are getting ready for our first annual fresh produce day at each location and have a great idea in the works for the summer semester! For more information about The Cabinet check out our page [The Cabinet at WMCC: WMCC Student Information & Resources](#) or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/share/1CB1t4brkx/?mibextid=>


COMMUNITY COLLEGE
system of New Hampshire

Find updates and
opportunities at the
Community College System
of New Hampshire
website: [CCSNH.EDU](https://www.ccsnh.edu)



Grand Auto Show



WHEN
May 9, 2026
10 AM - 2 PM
Rain or shine!

ALL-AGES-EVENT

WHERE
White Mountains Community College
2020 Riverside Dr., Berlin, NH 03570

FEATURING · Cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more ·

DONATIONS ACCEPTED
At the Door

BENEFITING
White Mountains Community College Scholarship Fund

Contact Troy Lachance:
tlachance@ccsnh.edu | 603-342-3085

Auto Show Menu

Food provided by WMCC Bistro Staff

Assorted Beverages

Breakfast Pastries

Chips

Desserts

Pasta or Potato Salad

Classic Diner Burger

Hot Diggity Dogs (add chili & cheese)



Electric Vehicle Racing at WMCC

On Monday, April 27, WMCC held its annual electric vehicle racecourse in the college parking lot. The car is built by second-year automotive students and takes 14 weeks to complete. All mechanicals including brakes, steering and suspension are assembled by the students. They also wire all of the high and low voltage circuits as part of the electric vehicle course required by either the automotive degree or certificate programs.



Help support WMCC students:



THE FOUNDATION
for New Hampshire Community Colleges

GIVE OPPORTUNITY

givenhcc.org/where-to-give/wmcc/





“GOLFING THE GAP”

Thursday, June 25, 2026 | Maplewood Golf Course, Bethlehem, NH

We are very pleased to announce that the 8th Annual White Mountains Community College Golfing the Gap Tournament on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 9:00 AM at The Maplewood Golf Club in Bethlehem, NH is full! There is a waiting list, so feel free to reach out for more information!

Whether you join us on the course that day, become a sponsor of the event, or make a donation, your involvement helps create opportunities for our students to succeed. Because of you, this tournament has become a meaningful tradition that directly benefits our students and the communities we serve.

Proceeds from this event will support the enhancement of educational technology and expand student services and student scholarships. Our goal is to help bridge the gap between what students can afford and what they owe, reinforcing our mission of affordability and accessibility, as even small balances can prevent students from continuing to completion.

On behalf of the WMCC Golf Tournament Committee, I hope you will consider participating again this year. Additional information about sponsorship opportunities, donations, and registration is available on our website. You may also contact Angela Clark at (603) 342-3053 or wmccgolf@ccsnh.edu, or visit our Facebook event page, *WMCC Golfing the Gap Tournament*. [Donations to this great cause can be made here.](#)



This spring 158 White Mountains Community College students were invited to join the Alpha Kappa Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of the Two-Year College. Membership is based on outstanding grade point average (GPA); therefore, membership is a special honor afforded to a small group of hard-working students.

Tracing its roots back to 1910, the Phi Theta Kappa boasts more than 3.5 million members in the United States and 10 sovereign nations. The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize academic achievement of two-year community college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders. Find more information about this prestigious organization at: www.ptk.org



Congratulations to 126 WMCC graduates for earning 170 degrees and/or certificates in Spring 2026!