

60 Years ANNIVERSARY

White Mountains Community College

ALUMNI

Your Semi-Annual News & Updates Fall 2026

Congratulations

The WMCC Alumni Association is very happy to announce that WMCC's Sean Dennis, a business education student from Lancaster, N.H., is the recipient of the Fall 2026 Alumni Scholarship Award of $650!

The WMCC Alumni Association awards one $650 scholarship in the fall each year to a WMCC student who has ties with one of our alumni. If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship, you may do so using this link: Give to White Mountains Community College | Berlin, Littleton NH (givenhcc.org)

THE FOUNDATION for New Hampshire Community Colleges

GIVE OPPORTUNITY

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



WMCC FIRST-SEMESTER AUTO DEGREE STUDENT **TREVOR SIMINO** RECIPIENT OF $10,000 SCHOLARSHIP

"The $10,000 NHADA Automotive Scholarship has helped me tremendously by paying for just about 90% of my schooling and taking a lot of financial stress off my shoulders. It has allowed me to focus more on my education, gain hands-on automotive experience, and work toward my future career without constantly worrying about how I am going to pay for college. I am very grateful for this opportunity and the support it has given me in pursuing my passion for the automotive industry." *Trevor Simino*

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



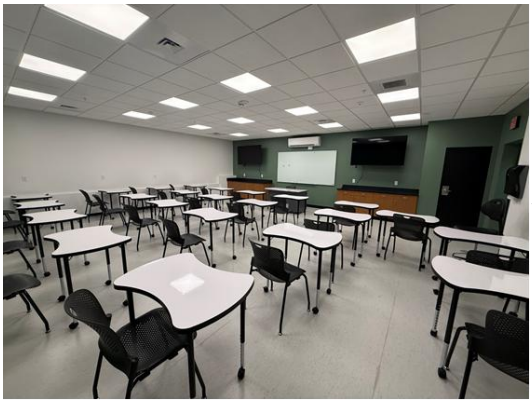
Greetings to all White Mountains Community College Alumni. I thank you for being such an important part of the best of WMCC. you are our Ambassadors in your communities and places of work.

WMCC is moving forward to ensuring that we can provide to our students with their academic and workforce development needs. Our numbers are continuously growing since the foundation of the College in 1966. This past year 1847 students went through our doors: 739 at the Berlin campus, nearly 615 in Littleton, 867 Early College, 272 Workforce Development, 45 Prison education program and 635 fully online.

Our graduation rate is one highest at 62% while our retention rate is the highest at 75%. The College awarded 169 certificate and 88 Associate degrees this past year.

WMCC was ranked 1st community college in New Hampshire and New England. 71st nationally and CCSNH the 6th system nationally. Best & Worst Community Colleges in 2026

We are almost finished with the Nursing and Science Labs renovations. The first-floor work is done and we have been granted a certificate of Occupancy for the Nursing labs and its associated faculty offices suite. The Physics and Engineering land and the associated classroom. The Biology Lab on the second floor still needs some work, however partial occupancy is in the process, and we are hoping that the work needed will be completed by the end of 2026. This is a $4.7Million granted funded work will be ensured that our students are being educated in excellent and most up-to-date environment with the most advanced equipment.



Two of the updated classrooms including new furniture and technology



The Department of Education approved our application to add a second prison education program location at the New Hampshire Correctional Facility for Women in Concord. Our first cohort of 17 women pursuing a Behavioral Science certificate and Liberal Arts associates degree will begin classes in late October 2026. WMCC was awarded a second NEPEC Accelerator Grant to continue our partnership with UNH and support the addition of baccalaureate opportunities for our incarcerated alumni. Through close collaboration and support from WMCC, UNH began its first cohort of 14 students at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility, offering a +2 bachelors' pathway in Business Management. The second Accelerator Grant award supports WMCC's mission to scale to the state prisons in Concord as well as identify an additional +2 bachelor's pathway in Human Services through UNH.

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ALUMNI Spotlight

Leilani Hung

WMCC Classes of 2023, 2025 & 2026


The Berlin Sun

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026 VOL. 35 NO. 31

Ready for fall fun

Leilani Heng, children's librarian at Berlin Public Library, is seen in front of the library with its scarecrow, which celebrates the return of RiverFire on Saturday (see story, page 9) as well as the library's fall events, like Halloween storytime, which she will present for children on Oct. 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the library. (PAUL ROBITAILLE PHOTO)

Leilani Hung is a lifelong learner. Growing up in Whitefield, she took two Running Start classes while in high school through White Mountains Community College, which she enrolled in after graduating. Earning a Liberal Arts degree in 2023, she returned for a Veterinary Assistant certificate and then a Library Technician certificate. After an internship with the Littleton Public Library, she was encouraged by the librarian there to apply for another local library position. This summer, Leilani was hired as the children's librarian at the Berlin Public Library.

While at WMCC, Professor Mary Orff was her favorite instructor, and the class she enjoyed the most was Children's Language and Literature. To current students, Leilani advises they be open to all learning opportunities.

Niki Starr Bauman graduated from WMCC as a dual major (Environmental Science and Conservation Law Enforcement) in May 2026 and now is a Project Manager with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust.



Kristi Harper, graduate of the Conservation Law Enforcement AND Environmental Science programs (dual major), is a Member Services Coordinator for Granite State Rural Water Association.



Conservation Law Enforcement graduate **Ben Harmon** has recently become a Conservation Officer for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and is assigned to Coos County.



Congratulations to Dr. Charles Lloyd, former president of White Mountains Community College. Chuck has been named Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire.



Read more about it on the CCSNH Newsletter

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
system of New Hampshire

Find updates and opportunities at the Community College System of New Hampshire website: CCSNH.EDU

Continued from page 3

WMCC donated an additional 21 desktops to the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility to further support our students and alumni, doubling the facility's current capacity. We will onboard our fifth cohort of 12 students to begin classes in January 2027 and anticipate the graduation of our third cohort of 8 students in May 2027. We have also established a Student Advisory Board of incarcerated students at the NNHCF, which will become integral in shaping our program and ensuring positive student experiences and outcomes as we continue to scale.

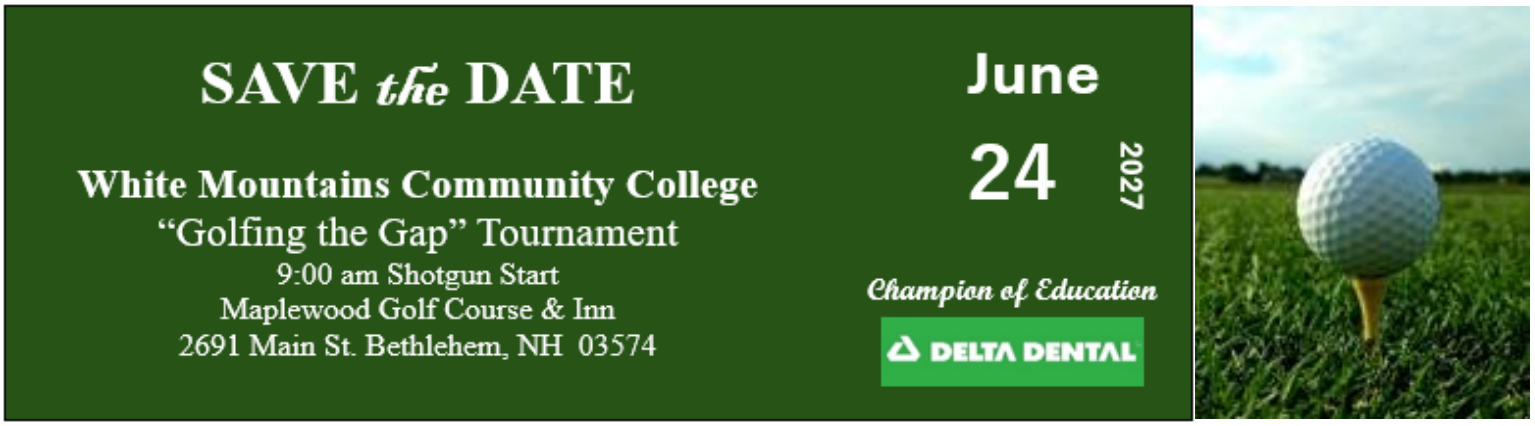
WMCC Workforce Development expanded their Accredited Test Facility (ATF) thus meeting the growing needs of regional employers and individuals and helping welders earn industry-recognized qualifications. This has enhanced the alignment with high-demand, high-skill sectors and supporting critical areas in the manufacturing and construction industries. The EMT cohorts that began in Fall 2024 has 60 new EMTs added to the regional workforce. This has strengthened emergency response across our community, and we are looking at exploring EMT-to-Paramedic pathway for career advancement. There has been an expansion of CDL training opportunities to meet the growing demand for skilled drivers across the region. Spring 2026 CDL-A and CDL-B face-to-face courses, year-round, self-paced online CDL theory options increase access and flexible workforce needs. The continued collaboration with businesses, municipalities, and individual drivers thus creating clear pathways for career advancement in transportation and logistics. One-on-one hourly CDL-A, CDL-B, and B-to-A upgrade trainings empower learners to upskill at their own pace.

Meals IncludED in which WMCC provide free meals to our students is and will continue to ensure we provide our students with some form of food security and allow them to concentrate on their studies. This service is provided at both campus locations through providing over 18,225 free meals to WMCC students this past year at a cost of $131,004. This is an important service that WMCC provide its students and we are unique in that as WMCC is the only Higher Education College or University that provides such service in the Country.

"GOLFING THE GAP"

By Angela Clark WMCC Bursar, Class of '98

Hello Fellow Alumni:
This coming year will be our 8th Anniversary for Golfing the Gap! We have been dedicated to teams having fun, winning awesome prizes and helping our students bridge the gap between what students can afford and what they owe, highlighting our mission of affordability and accessibility. Even the smallest balances can hinder a student's ability to progress to completion. Ninety-five percent of our students receive some form of financial aid. The tournament raised over **$28,000** this year alone! Please mark your calendar for June 24, 2027, when we will hold the 8th Anniversary of our annual Golfing the Gap tournament once again at the Maplewood Golf Club and Inn in Bethlehem, NH. For more information, please contact Angela Clark at 603-342-3053, Ryan Richard at 603-342-3019, or email us at WMCCGolf@ccsnh.edu. Donations to this great cause can be made here.



White Mountains Community College

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY
PTK.ORG/JOIN

AKX
Alpha Kappa Chi Chapter

This fall, 150 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 s 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

In Memoriam

John Dyer



Obituary

Excerpted from Community College Daily, Oct 12, 2026
Click here for the entire webpage: https://www.ccdaily.com/2026/10/newsmakers-374/

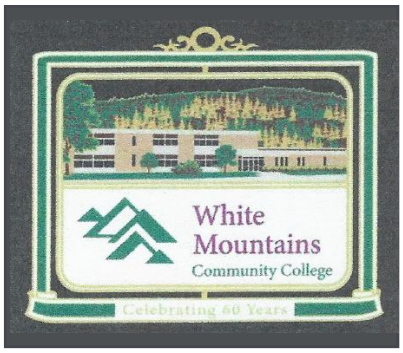


John Dyer, former associate vice president of workforce development at the American Association of Community Colleges, passed away last week following a long illness.

Dyer served at AACC for more than 15 years, first as a consultant and then, in 2015, as director of workforce and economic development. He previously worked at White Mountain Community College for 18 years, serving in various roles, including director of community and corporate affairs.

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In honor of the college's 60th anniversary, **Berlin's Main Street Program** has chosen WMCC to be this year's image of their annual ornament!



Buy yours soon at Hallmark/ Greetings Jewelers and the Chamber of Commerce, both located in Berlin, NH.

Cheers to 60 Years!

1965 — New Hampshire Vocational Institute, Berlin

1970s — New Hampshire Vocational-Technical College

1980s — New Hampshire Votech College At Berlin

1990s — New Hampshire Technical College at Berlin

1995 — New Hampshire Community Technical College, Berlin • Laconia

2000 — New Hampshire Community Technical College, Berlin

2005 — New Hampshire Community Technical College, Berlin, Littleton • Woodsville • Conway

2010- — White Mountains Community College

The college's archives are kept in the WMCC Fortier Library office; old photos, newspaper clippings and notes. At some point in the college's history, an unknown author typed pages of memories, and we thought we'd share some. Enjoy!

Although the Institute opened its doors to students in September, a dedication ceremony was not held until the following month. The state's top political and educational brass was on hand for the event, with Governor John W. King serving as guest speaker. In his address, King said the opening of the Berlin Institute was "the most important single action New Hampshire has taken to secure the foundation of the economy of the North Country." He called the one and one-quarter million-dollar school "a hallmark in the advancement of education in New Hampshire." Over 400 people were on hand for the dedication ceremony but unable to attend was Mrs. Mark Twitchell, who donated the land on which the school stands.

