Legislator Brief - April 2017

Open Labs Are Key Feature of New Cluster Structure

As Plymouth State organizes itself into seven multidisciplinary academic clusters, one aim is to provide students with advanced skills to work collaboratively, link across disciplines, and think critically and innovatively, giving them a distinct edge as they enter the workforce. Open labs are a critical part of this learning model, offering students hands-on opportunities to experience teamwork across disciplines in technologically-advanced collaborative spaces. In open labs, students work in partnership with community and industry to solve problems, address real issues, and conduct research. The Raymond S. Burton ’62 Open Laboratory in Lamson Learning Commons opened in November 2016 and is one of three on-campus open labs. More labs are planned across campus to support student success through regional collaborations in all seven clusters.

New Business Accelerator Launched at Plymouth State

The Enterprise Center at Plymouth State University is currently hosting a new business accelerator program supported by the NH Business Finance Authority, Live Free & Start, Plymouth State, and the Grafton Regional Development Corp. Eleven existing businesses and four startups are participating in the eight-week APEX Accelerator program, which provides networking opportunities and weekly educational sessions, including strategic marketing, management skills and finance topics, and direct mentorship from experienced industry professionals. Each of the 15 businesses are uniquely different with products ranging from goods and services to experiences; the participants come from as far away as an hour from Plymouth. At the end of the dynamic and collaborative program, participants present their business plans and ideas to a panel of judges and compete for a cash prize.