

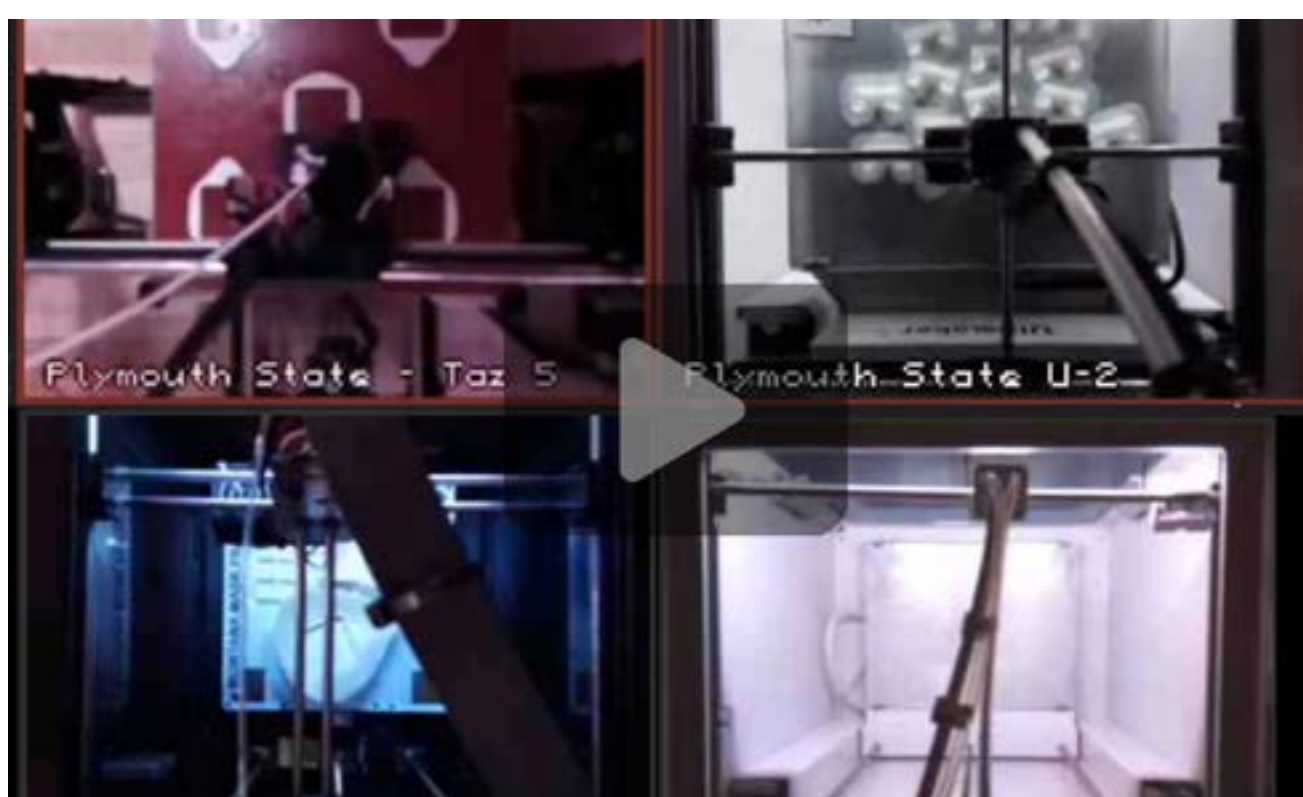
LEGISLATORS NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020



Plymouth State's ice arena is now an Alternative Care Site of Speare Memorial Hospital.

Plymouth State is concentrating on three things to help our state and the region during the coronavirus pandemic:

1. Teaching our students and continuing the mission to develop well-educated, creative, and resourceful graduates through engaged learning. Plymouth State's faculty and staff are enabling students to continue learning remotely.
2. Innovating to meet the state's healthcare needs through our collaborative [makerspace](#).
3. Working with the local community to prepare for and fight the coronavirus. For a summary please listen to this [NHPR story](#), which explains some of the ways PSU is collaborating with our partners and communities to meet our current unique needs



[Watch as 3D printers print "Montana Masks,"](#) highly effective filtration masks that are easy to sanitize, as part of effort to assist with the critical PPE shortages.

Plymouth State University's Makerspace Innovation

When the emergency became clear, PSU moved quickly to meet the region's needs. The new Draper & Maynard Makerspace has developed and produced face shields and masks, and head and chin bands for medical workers. In addition, in collaboration with Speare Memorial Hospital, members of the local and Boston medical communities, and donors, the makerspace has been producing ventilator branching devices and flow limiters, so multiple patients can use the same ventilator—up to eight. There has also been a call to build and deliver intubation hoods, so that patients receiving emergency care do not contaminate the operating room.

The Office of Community Impact at Plymouth State University also is partnering with Speare Memorial Hospital and the Central NH Public Health Network to accept donations of supplies and equipment.



Ice Arena as Surge Site

In anticipation of potential use due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Plymouth State's ice arena has been transformed into an Alternative Care Site of Speare Memorial Hospital with help from the National Guard. It's one of many ways that the University is partnering with other regional organizations to share resources. All other Alternative Care Sites in New Hampshire are being used as hospital "step downs," but the PSU site is unique in that it can provide supportive oxygen. In addition, if a surge does start, Plymouth State has rooms ready for COVID-exposed medical staff to live if they need to move away from their families.

Please contact [Marcia Schmidt Blaine](#) if you would like more information on the University.

For more on the economic and cultural value of higher education, please see

[Government Relations at Plymouth State University](#)