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Enterprise Center at Plymouth Launches the APEX Accelerator Program, New Business Accelerator Program

PLYMOUTH, NH – January 10, 2017 – The Enterprise Center at Plymouth (ECP), a regional business incubator in Plymouth, NH, will be launching a new eight-week business accelerator program called *APEX Accelerator* in March. The accelerator program will focus on assisting New Hampshire entrepreneurs and small businesses owners accelerate their businesses' growth through weekly educational sessions, direct mentorship from experienced industry professionals and networking opportunities. The program will culminate in May with a Demo Day, providing each participant the opportunity to present their business idea to panel of judges with a chance to win a cash prize. Applications are currently available on a rolling basis until February 13th or until all spots are filled.

Businesses participating in the *APEX Accelerator* Program will be provided with 6 weeks of structured educational sessions which will take place every Monday from 8:00am-12:00. Each participant will also have access to one-on-one mentoring and advising sessions throughout the entire program and the opportunity to work out of the ECP. The weekly educational sessions will cover a variety of topics including strategic marketing, management skills and financing. Eric Speith, ECP Executive Director, will be managing the content of the sessions which will include guest speakers and facilitators from industry professionals and experts.

Asked about the greatest value to participants, Spieth responded, "Business accelerators are the fastest, most efficient pathway in taking an idea from concept to launch; we are excited to provide the opportunity for accelerated growth to not only startups, but existing businesses as well. I am a huge proponent of the process, the value of the experience comes with the collaboration among participants and the 'Doing,' rather than just the thinking or dreaming of doing, which leads to deliberate and rapid growth with higher success rates."

Following the completion of the 8-week program, participants will partake in a Demo Day where they will present their updated business plans and ideas to a panel of judges and compete for a cash prize. "We are excited to partner with Plymouth State University to develop the first accelerator program in Central New Hampshire", stated Chris Wellington, CEO of the Grafton Regional Development Corporation. "The APEX Accelerator is one of the many new programs and services we are looking to bring to the ECP over the next year to help support entrepreneurship and promote job creation throughout the region".

The APEX Accelerator program is supported by the NH Business & Finance Authority, Live Free & Start, Plymouth State University and Grafton RDC.

"Live Free and Start is proud to support the Enterprise Center at Plymouths efforts to establish a new business accelerator program in Central New Hampshire. We're excited that the APEX Accelerator will bring new

educational resources and mentors together to support the region's growing business community." Said the Director of Entrepreneurship leading Live Free and Start initiative, Liz Gray.

Businesses are encouraged to apply early since only a limited number of spaces are available for the APEX Accelerator program. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until Feb 13th or until all spots filled. Applications and more information can be found at: www.apexaxlr8.com or by contacting Eric Spieth, ECP Executive Director at 603-535-2523.

About Enterprise Center at Plymouth (ECP)

A joint effort by Plymouth State University and the Grafton Regional Development Corporation, the Enterprise Center at Plymouth is a 10,000 square foot, state-of-the-art business incubator serving central and northern New Hampshire. The ECP features flexible office space, common-use conference rooms, the latest technology and access to a wealth of resources to support aspiring entrepreneurs and growing businesses.

Additional information on the Enterprise Center is available at www.enterprisecenternh.com or by contacting Chris Wellington at chris@graftonrdc.org or 603-536-2011.