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## **Enterprise Center at Plymouth Kicks Off new APEX Accelerator Program with 15 Central New Hampshire Businesses**

**PLYMOUTH, NH – March 6, 2017** – On Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> the Enterprise Center at Plymouth (ECP) kicked off their first class for the newly-created APEX Accelerator program. Fifteen companies were selected from the Central New Hampshire region to take part in the first APEX Accelerator program offered through the ECP. The accelerator program will focus on assisting participating entrepreneurs and established business owners accelerate their businesses' growth through weekly educational sessions, direct mentorship from experienced industry professionals and networking opportunities.

Over the next eight weeks, participants will be taking part in weekly educational sessions, which will cover a variety of topics including strategic marketing, management skills and financing. Following the eight weeks of structured educational sessions, participants will take part in two weeks of direct mentorship from experienced industry professionals that will allow them to fine tune their business plan and prepare for live pitches to investors. The APEX Accelerator will culminate on May 8<sup>th</sup> with a Demo Day, providing each participant the opportunity to present their business idea to a panel of judges with a chance to win a cash prize.

“We are extremely excited to have such a diverse group of participants for our first offering of the APEX Accelerator Program. With business ranging from startups to established businesses, I think everyone will work great together and create a shared learning environment”, stated Eric Spieth, Executive Director of the ECP. Businesses participating in this year's program range from tourism businesses like White Mountain Helicopter in Warren to professional service companies like Clarus Global Solutions in Plymouth.

The APEX Accelerator program is made possible thanks to the generous support of 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 Plymouth's 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 Liz Gray, Director of Entrepreneurship for the Live Free and Start initiative.

The APEX Accelerator is a program that the ECP plans on offering again in the Fall of 2017. Applications for the fall program will be accepted beginning in July. More information can be found at: [www.apexlr8.com](http://www.apexlr8.com) or by contacting Eric Spieth, ECP Executive Director at 603-535-2523.

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## 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](http://www.enterprisecenternh.com) or by contacting Chris Wellington at [chris@graftonrdc.org](mailto:chris@graftonrdc.org) or 603-536-2011.

### List of participating businesses in this year's APEX Accelerator program:

**Karl Drerup Art Gallery / Museum of The White Mountains:** The mission of the Museum of the White Mountains is to obtain, maintain, and provide access to resources and activities that educate and engage its audience with the region's artistic, historical, geographic, and cultural treasures. Its purpose is to enrich the life and scholarship of the Plymouth State University community, researchers, and the broader public.

**Clarus Global Solutions:** Bringing Clarity to Complex Decisions about Real Estate, it's value and taxes. We are building a network of commercial appraisers and financial consultants who will dominate the non-lender valuation market.

**AdasKo Enterprises, LLC:** A woman-owned business based out of North Conway, New Hampshire. The sole owner, Chef Steffani Adaska, creates, designs, and develops quality kitchenware and cooking accessories that are MADE in USA. Our unique product line offers solutions to problems of cooks and chefs across the globe. The first product in our line starts with the Grill Slick™, a revolutionary BBQ accessory that lubricates your grill grates so food won't stick."

**Homeward Bound Professional Animal Care, LLC:** Homeward Bound Professional Animal Care provides professional, reliable and trustworthy animal care to pet parents in the Lakes Region. Owned by Alix Marcoux DiLorenzo and headquartered in Gilford, Homeward Bound currently specializes in daily dog walking and vacation cat care. Our clients find peace of mind knowing they can leave their dogs and cats with a knowledgeable, trustworthy and dependable team of pet care professionals when they are not able to be there themselves. They know that their furry family member will be treated like members of our own family with loving, consistent and reliable care. More information about Homeward Bound can be found at [www.hbpets.com](http://www.hbpets.com). Homeward Bound can be reached at 603.998.0954.

**Live a Little Fitness:** Live a Little Fitness is a Yoga and Fitness Boutique. We are more than just classes. Our studio will nourish your soul and rejuvenate your spirit. Experience one of our classes and leave feeling renewed, relaxed, weightless and most importantly happy!

**Utility Choice Savings:** Utility Choice Savings, works with small and mid-sized businesses to help them implement energy efficiency measures that reduce their environmental footprint, and saves them money. Advances in Energy Efficiency are substantially reducing the energy consumption of US businesses, resulting in significant energy savings, and positively impacting the environment, RIGHT NOW ...TODAY!

**White Mountains Helicopter:** White Mountains Helicopter, LLC provides scenic helicopter tours and aerial photography services in the White Mountains Region of New Hampshire. We launch from our private helipad in Warren, NH; surrounded by the White Mountains National Forest.

**Sara Holland & Company:** Sara Holland of Sara Holland & Company is a licensed NH Real Estate Broker with Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty serving a niche market of luxury recreation properties in the White Mountains. She is looking for innovative ways to better serve her clients and expand her business by collaborating with other entrepreneurs on best practices and idea incubation. As an ECP tenant Sara has enjoyed the many resources available and looks forward to this program.

**Country Cupboard Candies:** Traditional candies in non-traditional locations. We are a rebagger and DSD distributor of traditional candies to New England attractions. Helping our clients maximize their revenues by merchandising an impulsive purchase creating an additional ring. Working hard to make the world a sweeter place.

**SuzieBlu Party & Event Design:** SuzieBlu Party & Event Design will be as the name suggests: a party and event design business. The business will cater to clients who wish to hold their social events in central NH and will specialize in themed social and fundraising events (and perhaps small weddings), preferably held in unique and eclectic venues. I would like to incorporate recycled items, as well as items from my current and expanding inventory into my designs (if the client is willing), to minimize cost and carbon footprint.'

**Synergy Construction:** Synergy Construction LLC, conceived in 2017 is a general contracting company that specializes in multi terrain excavation. With the ability to render services virtually in any location northern New England has to offer, Synergy Construction aims to deliver finished products on time and under budget using cutting edge technology within the construction industry

**Mindful Making:** Mindful Making LLC believes in design that is good for the earth and it's inhabitants. Based on the permaculture process of careful assessment and analysis, we look at the whole picture of your problem before solving in response. Our multidisciplinary services include digital graphics, visual interpretation of data, landscape design and three-dimensional functional and sculptural products. Examples can be found at [marylena.com](http://marylena.com).

**Schatelier Architectural Studio:** Schatelier Architectural Studio will create a signature line of architect crafted, small yet spacious, affordable homes that reflect the natural beauty of the New Hampshire landscape, while being exceptionally energy efficient. The Plenty Home collection was inspired by Kathleen Quinlan Robinson (KQ) of Hermit Lake in Sanbornton, NH. Plenty Homes will fill a housing mismatch for NH's millennial and boomer generations, bringing thoughtfully designed homes that use fewer natural resources to the housing marketplace.

**Keene Systems:** Keene Systems Inc. is based in Plymouth, New Hampshire. We custom tailor software development teams to solve your business problems. Whether you need a team of 2 or 20 we have you covered. We work with our clients through every step of the custom software development process to strengthen their business operations. Keene Systems is committed to providing their clients with exemplary service and will collaborate with clients in any capacity they need - Whether it's the development of a web or desktop application or a large content management system or a mobile solution.