



Dear senators, representatives, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Melissa Perry and I am a counselor/transfer specialist in the Student Affairs office at Northern Maine Community College. I am reaching out today to bring attention to the importance of having a College and Career Success Coordinator (CCSC) on campus. Our CCSC, Sarah, has become an invaluable asset to our students and staff. Our students engage well with Sarah, often stopping by her office to say hi or update her on the latest in their academic or career endeavors. College can be difficult and overwhelming at times, and our CCSC provides a reassuring smile and an open door to problem solve and brainstorm. Sarah has helped students who might have previously fallen through the crack, achieve their college dreams by bridging the gap between Adult Education and college.

One of my greatest privileges at NMCC has been working with our TRIO students; those who are either low income, have a disability, or are first-generation college students. Sarah has met with our TRIO students and talked about the importance of a resume, why it's important to prepare for an interview, and has set up job shadowing opportunities for them. Our CCSC doesn't just talk about these things, she provides hands-on support as well, whether it's through individual meetings or in-person workshops where students learn new skills or build on the skills they already have. Sarah has helped countless students with fine tuning their resumes and working on their presentation for interviews. But it isn't just our TRIO students that Sarah has supported, it has been every single student that has walked into her office.

I would like to think that the student success stories would speak for themselves when it comes to the importance of the CCSC position. I have witnessed students tell Sarah they were offered their dream summer internship, or that they have an interview for the job they really want. Students frequently come back from job shadow placements with huge smiles and an overwhelming sense of gratitude for her support.

These are just a few of the things that our CCSC has achieved over this past year with our students. I am hopeful that our collaboration can continue so that our students and community can continue to benefit from her presence.

I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Melissa Perry

Counselor/Student Development & Transfer Specialist
Northern Maine Community College