

a family affair



heather & marta smith

June was a particularly busy month for the Martinese family.

“In the span of one week, my son graduated from eighth grade, my daughter from high school, and my husband and I each earned our associate degree at GSC’s commencement,” shared Amy Martinese.

“In this economy, I think that lots of people are realizing that they need a degree,” said Amy. “For us, we wanted to go to school and set a good example for our kids. My daughter is going away to college this fall and my husband and I will go back to GSC to earn our bachelor’s.”

Amy and Adam Martinese represent a surging trend at Granite State College: legacy students. These individuals have family members that have attended GSC or are currently enrolled. The high prices of education are always challenging, especially when there are more than one college-eligible per household. This population has found a comfortable home at Granite State.

“It’s rare to find a college option that has the combination of online classes and the direct support of a campus, especially when you live further north,” said Stephen Demaine of the Class of 2012. “GSC has helped my wife and I balance between work

and family life. I attended first, just graduated, and my wife will begin her program this fall. Education is important. It takes dedication and serious commitment. GSC has allowed us to better manage our time and responsibilities.”

In addition to flexibility, legacy students appreciate the unique shared experience they develop with their family members.

Heather Smith and her mother-in-law, Marta Smith, shared books, shared resources, and ultimately shared their graduation day.

“I majored in English Language Arts and my mother-in-law studied early childhood education. As part of our programs, we took some of the same classes. It was awesome that I could ask about her experience in a certain course and she genuinely understood what I would face,” said Heather.

“We actually did take one class together. I was able to see a side of her that I never saw before. It brought us closer.”

Of course, for the majority of today’s students, attending college is largely a numbers game. Granite State College has the advantage of offering affordable public tuition to New Hampshire’s residents, providing a solution for families that need to put multiple people through college. In some cases, entire families pursue their degrees at GSC.

“My mother and older sister went to GSC and now me and my other sister are attending,” said Chelsea Seekell. “The Conway campus is close to home. My mom got her bachelor’s degree while raising our family and I saw that it’s doable. It’s been such a great experience.”

As an institution, Granite State strives to offer an affordable and innovative pathway to a degree that can serve all dedicated students - despite challenging barriers. It is an honor when students choose GSC to fulfill their goals and a profound statement when a family does the same. This growing “legacy population” is a refreshing effect of GSC’s promise and an important reflection of the deep capacity of the GSC mission.