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DURHAM, N.H. -- U.S. Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter met with current participants in the University of New Hampshire's Upward Bound program Monday as she was thanked for her support of the federal program that helps high school students succeed in higher education. Congresswoman Shea-Porter was instrumental in ensuring U.S. Department of Education funding for the program continued.

Dan Gordon, director of UNH's Upward Bound program, noted that while the program 'has generally had the support of New Hampshire elected officials (Shea-Porter) has actively advocated for the needs of our students' and truly understands that one's ability to learn is not determined by financial status alone. The University of New Hampshire Upward Bound program is one of over 700 Upward Bound programs nationwide that help eligible high school students achieve their dreams of going on to and being successful in higher education. Eligible students come from low-income families and/or are first generation potential college students.

Shea-Porter shared with the students that she earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at UNH and worked her way through school scraping plates in the dining hall kitchen. "I know you're from a group that has to work a little bit harder," she told the students, "but my job in Washington is to make sure you have the same opportunities everyone else has in this great country...education is the key to prosperity."

UNH has sponsored an Upward Bound project since 1966. UNH Upward Bound is 100 percent funded by the U.S. Department of Education through a competitive grant competition every four years. As one of only two Upward Bound projects in New Hampshire, UNH Upward Bound serves 91 students in six high schools located in southern and eastern New Hampshire. For more information on UNH's Upward Bound visit http://www.upwardbound.unh.edu/index.html. For more information on Carol Shea-Porter, go to http://shea-porter.house.gov.

Editors and reporters: Photos available for download: http://www.unh.edu/news/img/PAS1320.jpg

Cutline: U.S. Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter accepts a certificate of recognition for her support of the Upward Bound program from Len Lamberti (left), past president of the NH Educational Opportunity Association, and Dan Gordon, director of UNH's Upward Bound program. (Courtesy of UNH Photographic Services)
Cutline: Current participants in UNH's Upward Bound program thank U.S. Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter for her support of the program. (Courtesy of UNH Photographic Services)

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