

The Citizen^{of} Laconia

The voice of New Hampshire's Lakes Region

2013-01-03 / Local

LRCC culinary program forced to find new venue

By BENJAMIN C. KLEIN

bklein@citizen.com

BELMONT — The Lakes Region Community College is scrambling to find a new location for the Food For Thought Cafe after structural problems were found on the fourth floor of the Belmont Mill.

LRCC officials are nervous that if a new location is not found by Jan. 22 when classes resume, the 70 students in the Culinary Arts Program will have their program delayed or even suspended.

Belmont Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin said the structural problems were found last week while workers were replacing the floor.

Plymouth State
UNIVERSITY



NO MORE EXCUSES
SUBMIT YOUR HOMEWORK
ONLINE!!
CLICK
HERE

LRCC Vice-President Tom Goulette said that LRCC is currently in negotiations for possible alternative sites with professional kitchens so that the program can continue uninterrupted.

"We are going to do everything we can," to save the program Goulette emphasized, but he adding that, "If nothing can be put in place, we would have to suspend classes for a semester, until we get it relocated."

However, Goulette said that the school would do everything in their power to try to prevent that from happening, which includes delaying the start of the semester for the program.

"For [student's] degrees it would push it back a semester, and we would hate to see that," Goulette said.

Students affected would receive a refund of their tuition, if that were the case, Goulette said.

"That is a last resort though," he said, adding, "We hope and expect to have something for a space to start classes on the 22nd," Goulette said.

Beaudin said that despite the structural issues that forced the fourth floor to be vacated, there are no safety concerns for the other occupants, which includes a child's daycare.

"We are not concerned about any safety issues," Beaudin said.

Goulette said culinary arts is a very popular program in the school, filled with part and fulltime students, some of whom are right out of high school while others are adults looking into a career change.

"There is a lot of opportunity in that industry right now. We have students coming to us from all over the state" to attend the program, Goulette said.



Given that the hospitality industry is the third largest in New Hampshire with a "tremendous amount of employment in the field, we are going to do everything we can to save it," Goulette explained.

Goulette bemoaned the end of the relationship between the school and Belmont, saying that, while active, it was a "win-win for everyone involved."

Goulette said that LRCC is currently looking for an industrial mover to remove the school's equipment from the Mill.

Beaudin said that the fourth floor will require additional work to fix and that more information will be made available to the public at the Jan. 7 Selectmen meeting.

[Return to top](#)

 Share / Save 

Post new comment

Your name:

landuse

Comment: *