River Valley Community College expands transfer options to art institute

By KAITLIN MULHERE Sentinel Staff

River Valley Community College announced a new transfer agreement with the New Hampshire Institute of Art this week.

Students who complete certain courses and qualifications at River Valley will now be guaranteed a spot in the institute’s creative writing bachelor’s degree program.

The agreement comes about a month after the Claremont-based community college expanded an agreement with Granite State College to offer four joint programs at Granite State’s Claremont campus. The community college also has a Keene Academic Center on Washington Street.

Increasing the number and scope of River Valley’s transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities is one of the paths the school is taking to increase enrollment, by providing more options to potential students, President Alicia B. Harvey-Smith said.

River Valley has 17 transfer agreements with schools throughout New England, including the schools in the University System of New Hampshire — Keene State College, Plymouth State University, the University of New Hampshire and Granite State College.

The agreement with the New Hampshire Institute of Art is designed to allow students to transfer schools seamlessly. Students are eligible for the automatic transfer to the institute if they earn an associate degree in creative writing with a 2.5 or higher grade-point average and the endorsement of River Valley’s creative writing department chairman.

River Valley students who enroll at the institute are eligible for an $8,000 scholarship from the art school.

The creative writing program was launched at River Valley last year, and has nine enrolled students. Harvey-Smith said she hopes the agreement will help River Valley increase interest in the program.

Harvey-Smith and Vice President of Student Affairs Susan Henderson said they expect the number of transfer agreements to grow in the near future, and River Valley is in talks with Colby-Sawyer College in New London to develop an agreement.