



NH SBDC Receives 2009 Small Business Development Center Service Excellence And Innovation Center Award

Media Contact: [Lori Wright](#)

603-862-0574

UNH Media Relations

May 15, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. - The New Hampshire Small Business Development Center Office of Statewide Educational Programs led by Heidi Edwards Dunn has been awarded the NH Small Business Association's 2009 Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award.

The award honors the NH SBDC service center for its excellence in assisting entrepreneurs and advancing program delivery and management through innovation. The NH SBDC is an outreach program of University of New Hampshire Whittemore School of Business and Economics.

Led by Dunn's efforts, the center played a pivotal role in creating "e-Learning for Entrepreneurs." Launched in October 2008, e-Learning allows entrepreneurs to access valuable online educational programs and tools. As of May 2009, more than 969 e-courses have been taken.

"Heidi's ability to take an idea and run with it was critical to the success of this new initiative; she was the glue that kept the entire project on track and on-time - she is truly deserving of this award," said Mary Collins, NH SBDC state director.

The cornerstone of e-Learning is "How To's for Business Owners," 21 three-hour courses in business management, marketing and finance. Additional components include "Business Plan Online," which is an online software tool for writing a business plan, and online counseling with SBDC-certified business advisors. Additional courses in development cover topics such as starting a business in New Hampshire and obtaining business financing in New Hampshire.

"Thank you to the SBA recognizing the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center's Educational Programs, especially 'e-Learning for Entrepreneurs,' " Dunn said. "I am grateful for this honor and hope that it helps bring awareness to the opportunities that NH SBDC and its e-Learning tools offer to New Hampshire business owners."

An outreach program of the UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics, the NH Small Business Development Center is an important resource partner of the NH SBA and it is the only agency with full-time, certified business consultants providing one-on-one consultation to New Hampshire's small businesses. For more information visit www.nhsbdc.org.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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