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## UNH Diversity Director Appointed To NH Civil Rights Panel

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## UNH Diversity Director Appointed To NH Civil Rights Panel

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DURHAM, N.H. - JerriAnne Boggis, director of diversity programs and community outreach at the University of New Hampshire, has been appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights New Hampshire Advisory Committee.



JerriAnne Boggis

Boggis is one of 13 Granite Staters appointed to the New Hampshire civil rights panel. The appointment is a two-year term.

"JerriAnne Boggis has worked in her home community of Milford and at the University of New Hampshire to further the cause of civil rights in our state. Whenever there is an issue regarding equality, JerriAnne Boggis is there to offer wise counsel and leadership. She has spoken for those whose voices were silenced by discrimination in the past, and her voice provides leadership today on issues of civil rights. She will be a distinguished representative for New Hampshire on this important body," said David Watters, director of the UNH Center for New England Culture. As a state representative, Watters nominated Boggis for the committee.

Boggis is the founder and director of the Harriet Wilson Project, and a board member for the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail. As a community activist, she has developed several programs that have raised awareness of New Hampshire's diverse heritage and increase the visibility of black history in the state. At UNH she has been a leader through her work with the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and the Black Heritage Partnerships. She received her master's in writing from Rivier College.

"JerriAnne Boggis will offer great leadership and service on the advisory committee to raise awareness of pertinent practices and issues that impede progress and obstruct the full participation of under-represented and under-served populations in the state of New Hampshire. She has a long history in the state of raising community awareness and taking action. Her work on the Harriet Wilson Progress and current work at UNH with community outreach and diversity programs are evidence of her ability to bring about change," said Wanda Mitchell, vice provost and chief diversity officer at UNH.

An independent bipartisan federal agency, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights conducts research and advises the president and Congress on civil rights issues. Its members are appointed by the president and Congress.

Congress has directed the commission to establish advisory committees in all states and the District of Columbia to assist in its fact-finding function. These committees receive reports, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals, public and private organizations, and public officials, and forward advice and recommendations to the commission. Members of State Advisory Committees serve without compensation and conduct civil rights reviews and investigations and report to the commission.

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, space-grant and community-engaged university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

**Photo: JerriAnne Boggis**

<http://www.unh.edu/news/img/JBoggis.jpg>

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