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UNH Media Relations

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June 4, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. - University of New Hampshire President Mark Huddleston has accepted a recommendation from an internal working group to merge with the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, which, if it comes to fruition, would add a law school to the university's existing schools and colleges.

"I heartily endorse the recommendation that the university move forward with this partnership, and look forward to working with the USNH Board of Trustees and with our colleagues at Franklin Pierce Law Center to advance the process," Huddleston said.

The Concord law school approached UNH with the idea of merging in January 2008 to help Franklin Pierce Law Center reach its goal of becoming a Top 100 law school. Franklin Pierce is ranked as a third-tier school by US News and World Report but is in the top 10 in intellectual property law. It has 480 students, 80 of whom are New Hampshire residents. Tuition is approximately $35,000 a year.

A working group was appointed in October 2008 by Huddleston to explore the possibility of a merger. In its recommendation to Huddleston, the group stated the move would provide a "unique opportunity that would be very beneficial to UNH in many ways."

Discussions with FPLC and the USNH Board of Trustees to review and ultimately approve a merger will begin as soon as possible.

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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