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UNH Foundation Director Receives Outstanding Philanthropist Of The Year Award

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DURHAM, N.H. – Jude Blake, a member of the University of New Hampshire Foundation’s Board of Directors, recently was honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) – Northern New England Chapter – as Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year.

Blake, a 1977 graduate of UNH and a resident of Portsmouth, received the award at the organization’s annual National Philanthropy Day celebration which recognizes the extraordinary contributions of philanthropists to the region, the country, and the world. She also serves on the board of trustees for the University System of New Hampshire.

In accepting the award, Blake spoke of the personal rewards she has gained from her philanthropy, in particular from her efforts to further public higher education. “It is gratifying to be part of the group that has taken on the university’s Peter T. Paul Challenge to transform business education in New England,” said Blake. She also praised the important work of fundraisers in the not-for-profit community. “It is you, the fundraisers, who are also the friend raisers, and the matchmakers. It is you who really make it all happen. You get people like me engaged, and I salute you for that.”

Blake was nominated for this award by the University of New Hampshire, the Children’s Museum of Dover, Cross Roads House, Families First, and The Music Hall of Portsmouth.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals hosts one of more than 100 celebrations held in November by AFP chapters throughout the United States. Founded in 1960, AFP, formerly known as the National Society of Fundraising Executives, advances philanthropy through its 32,000 members around the globe. In 2008, despite the recession, Americans donated $307 billion to not-for-profits.

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 more than 12,200 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students.

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