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UNH Health Services Earns National Accreditation

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire's Health Services, which serves more than 13,000 students, has been nationally accredited for the third consecutive time by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). According to Kevin Charles, assistant vice president for student and academic services and executive director of Health Services, "accreditation underscores our long-standing commitment to providing the highest possible level of quality care to students and the UNH community. We are pleased and proud to have our efforts recognized in this way."

The AAAHC conducts its accreditation program on a national basis and has accredited more than 2,700 ambulatory health care organizations, including university health centers, same-day surgery centers, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), multi-specialty group medical practices, occupational health services and other health care organizations. "Achieving accreditation demands a high level of dedication and effort," said AAAHC President Roy Grekin. "UNH is to be commended for this accomplishment."

Health Services is a state licensed educational health center. In support of the university's academic mission, it is committed to promoting, maintaining and improving the health and well-being of the university community. The staff includes physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, laboratory and radiological technologists, wellness educators/counselors, nutritionists, pharmacists, licensed massage therapists and administrative staff. Services provided include primary medical care, women's health services, laboratory, radiology and pharmacy services, and health and wellness services on a wide variety of health topics including nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, sexuality, chronic and acute illnesses, emotional and spiritual health, stress management and wellness. Health Services averages more than 22,000 visits a year from students, faculty and staff.

"The staff is very committed to the voluntary re-accreditation process, and the certificate is the most visible result," said Charles. "But the ultimate value is in the ongoing self-analysis, peer review and consultation that Health Services gains in the AAAHC program. The quality and service required to meet the standards are ongoing and happen every day here."

Dr. Thomas Goldsmith, a recently retired physician from Montana State University, visited UNH for AAAHC in November to assess Health Services' programs and services. "I was very impressed with the staff," he said. "Their approach and commitment to patient care is outstanding. They should be very proud of this important accomplishment; it is well deserved." Goldsmith continues, "Health Services is exemplary in so many ways. Of the many college health services I have visited across the country, it is one of the very best and should be held as an example for other health services."

"Once again, we are pleased to have AAAHC recognize the quality of our health care services at UNH," said Mark Rubinstein, UNH vice president for student and academic services. "Health Services plays an integral role in our effort to support student success, working proactively to create a healthier campus for all students while responding as necessary to address the acute health care needs of individuals."

For more information, contact Kathleen Grace-Bishop, director of education and promotion at Health Services, at (603) 862-3823. For more information on AAAHC, visit www.aaahc.org.