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Erika Mantz

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Contact: Erika Mantz  
(603) 862-1567  
UNH Media Relations

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Thanks to a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, the University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth College have received funding to support a joint venture that provides environmental, health and safety technical assistance to 16 colleges and universities in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire College and University Compliance Assistance Cooperative (NHC3UA) will work closely with the New Hampshire College and University Council in meeting this goal.

The environmental health and safety programs at UNH and Dartmouth have been sharing resources for more than six years. With the creation of the NHC3UA, the cooperative effort will provide on-site audits at the 16 participating institutions with recommendations for achieving regulatory compliance with the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the EPA.

“NHC3UA represents a further evolution in the strong relationship between the Environmental Health & Safety programs at Dartmouth College and the University of New Hampshire,” said Michael Blayney, director of Environmental Health & Safety at Dartmouth. “Working together and with the NHDES, this is a first of its kind model for how colleges and universities can address environmental protection, sustainability and resource conservation. The lessons we learn will inevitably help our students shape a better tomorrow for the Granite State.”

The partnership between UNH and Dartmouth, in cooperation with the NHDES, has already led to substantial changes in the state’s hazardous waste rules to make them easier as well as less costly to adhere to, and has resulted in a savings of more than $10,000 in consultant fees for three institutions where the NHC3UA has performed environmental audits.

“For more than a decade colleges and universities in New England have faced increased scrutiny by the EPA and other state and local environmental agencies for compliance with air, water and hazardous waste regulations,” said Bradford Manning, director of Environmental Health and Safety at UNH. “We anticipate that collaborative efforts like this will result in substantial cost savings for the institutions by avoiding large fines or the necessity of hiring individual consultants to provide legal or technical assistance.”

The grant will allow for the development of a password-protected Web site and the hiring of a student intern to collect information as well as assist in the environmental audits at each school. For more information about the grant or the NHC3UA, contact Manning at bmanning@cisunix.unh.edu or visit http://www.nhc3ua.org.
The grant was received from the Davis Educational Foundation established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis's retirement as chairman of Shaw’s Supermarkets, Inc.