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New Placement Office at UNH's Whittemore School Provides Customized Services

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Career planning just got easier for students and graduates at the University of New Hampshire -- not to mention for employers too.

The Whittemore School of Business and Economics recently established a career placement office that helps students identify and secure internships that enhance their learning experience; provides resume feedback and interviewing tips; assists students with identifying career-specific employment opportunities; and provides employers with the option of informing business students about potential career paths with their companies.

"The Whittemore School has taken a major step in providing its students -- present and former -- with better connections to regional and national employers, by hiring its first-ever placement director," says Dean Steve Bolander. "We are just beginning to explore the possibilities that the position can provide; however, we are confident this action will provide benefits to employers, as well as current students and alumni, by providing them with a highly qualified pool of potential employees. We look forward to expanding and strengthening our network, and hope that employers will let us know how we can help them."

The office is managed by Darius Thompson, director of placement and corporate relations, in collaboration with the University Advising and Career Center to provide a wealth of resources for Whittemore School students and alumni seeking career opportunities and potential employees.

"Opportunities come up year round, even in this economy for our students," notes Thompson. "For companies that have undergraduate or graduate internship opportunities -- we have outstanding future business leaders who are eager to apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired from the Whittemore School."

Programs planned for the school's 1,600 undergraduate and 300 graduate students cover a range of topics including: identifying career opportunities, getting the interview, networking, interview strategies and salary negotiation. Thompson is offering programs to students in classrooms, clubs and through special events. In the past, college recruiting typically occurred in the spring, however today it is a year-round activity.

"Career planning is an ongoing process of identifying opportunities and making decisions that better position individuals to reach their career goals," Thompson notes.

The Office of Placement is currently working with prospective employers to schedule information sessions in which representatives visit the campus to speak about current and future career opportunities. A secure, password-protected website is maintained by the office where employers can post positions for Whittemore School students to review. Thompson brings 14 years of experience as a recruiter, the last nine from his previous position with Microtech Consultants, Inc. in Londonderry, where he specialized in health care, information technology, and manufacturing.

The placement office can be accessed online at:

www.unh.edu/wsbe/placement/

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