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Retirement Gift Provides New Energy for University of New Hampshire Scholarship Students

By Sarah Aldag
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DURHAM, N.H. -- Calling it the best retirement gift possible, Exeter resident Michael J. Dalton thanked members of the board of Unitil Corporation for the generous $25,000 contribution recently made in support of University of New Hampshire students. Unitil CEO Robert Schoenberger presented the gift at a board meeting in appreciation of Dalton's service to both the company and the university.

"The university and Unitil have been such important parts of my life, and this gift brings the two together in a powerful way," says Dalton. The gift augments the Mike and Bea Dalton Scholarship Fund established in 1998. The endowment provides merit scholarship support to undergraduate and graduate students for studies in the fields of engineering and physical sciences at the UNH.

Dalton retired April 1, as president and chief operating officer of Unitil. He is a 1964 graduate of UNH's College of Engineering and Physical Sciences with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering.

His association with the company began more than 35 years ago when he joined Exeter & Hampton Electric Company (E&H) as an engineer, and ultimately became its president in 1978. He was instrumental in the creation of Unitil Corporation in 1984, and the subsequent mergers of Concord Electric Company and E&H, into Unitil. He has been the Hampton-based public utility holding company's president since its formation.

Dalton has remained an engaged and active alumnus who generously lends his management expertise and fundraising abilities. He has been a leader in several University fundraising initiatives including the Whittemore Center Campaign and The Next Horizon: The Campaign for the University of New Hampshire. He is a past director and secretary of the UNH Foundation Board of Directors, and a former chair of the President's Council. Long active in alumni affairs, Dalton is a past president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He
was honored with the Alumni Association Meritorious Service Award in 1996.

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