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UNH's Whittemore School Launches New Master's Degree in Management of Technology

By Denise Hart
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May 8, 2003

DURHAM, N.H. - The MBA alternative for technology leaders and entrepreneurs has arrived in New Hampshire with an innovative Master of Science degree program in the Management of Technology (MS/MOT) initiated by the University of New Hampshire's Whittemore School of Business and Economics.

The new degree program was approved by the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees in April 2003, and is being offered at the Durham campus.

Steve Bolander, dean of the Whittemore School, calls the program unique. "In the present economy, information technology, nanotechnology and biotechnology are all emerging at a fast pace," notes Bolander. "But development by itself is not enough; it has to be commercialized successfully. The challenge is how to manage this rapidly changing technology-how to bring it into the economic mainstream. Business managers need to know how to manage it and technical managers need to understand the business side. Our MOT program makes people bilingual; they become knowledgeable in both disciplines."

The UNH program is one of a select group of 125 programs like this around the world, according to Warren Lackstrom, director of the Hamel Center for the Management of Technology and Innovation at UNH. The program seeks recent graduates with engineering and science background who are interested in technology-track managerial positions. An MS/MOT course of study prepares students for leadership roles in research and development, design and product engineering, product development, project management, manufacturing management, software development and systems design and integration.

Students progress through the 18-month program as a cohort,
studying and learning together, while they practice team-building skills during five 10-week trimesters and two four-week residency periods. The curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary team projects and joint problem solving. Industry-sponsored projects and internships are an integral part of the program, notes Lackstrom.

"People are not as aware of MS/MOT programs as they are of MBA programs that traditionally focus on the functional areas of business," says Lackstrom. "While the MOT provides a solid base of business fundamentals, it focuses on the development and commercialization of emerging technologies and the use of technologies to integrate business operations and processes."

For more information about the MS/MOT degree program at the Whittemore School, contact Warren Lackstrom at 603-862-3370 or send an email to warren.lackstrom@unh.edu.

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