

UNH Family Business Center Offers Advice on Choosing Board Members

By [Janet Lathrop](#)
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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire's Center for Family Business will offer a workshop on how to choose effective board members for family-owned businesses Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the New England Center on campus.

Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 8 a.m., followed by the program from 8:30 until noon. A networking lunch with panelists and workshop participants will follow.

Charles Roscoe and Gary Daniels of Berry, Dunn, McNeil and Parker, Certified Public Accountants/Management Consultants, will facilitate the program. It will feature a panel of experts in family business sharing their experiences -- the good, the bad and the ugly -- with establishing and maintaining boards. Panelists will include CEO Edwin J. Montalvo of the family-owned Montalvo Corporation, Gorham, Maine, and CEO Paul Lorenzetti of family-owned Corflex. Also, David Fries of Cleveland, Waters and Bass, Concord, will address legal issues, while Everett Moitoza, a clinical psychologist and family business specialist from Genus Resources, Needham, Mass., will serve on the panel to discuss relationship and organizational issues.

Selecting board members for any business is a challenge and for family-owned businesses it can be even more so, according to Barbara Draper, director of the Center for Family Business at UNH's Whittemore School of Business and Economics. Questions to be addressed in the Jan. 22 workshop include whether a volunteer board, outside professionals or paid board

members will provide the best quality guidance, and if paid, what is fair compensation? Also, panelists will discuss tips for helping business owners listen to a board rather than perceive its advice as meddling, and strategies for finding board members who will take the time to get acquainted with the family and its business.

The center's mission is to assist the entrepreneurial family in finding solutions to business challenges and concerns. Staff help families run successful meetings, bring family members into the business, improve communication, sustain profitability, and transfer leadership and ownership. The center is sponsored by MassMutual Insurance; Berry, Dunn and McNeil and Parker of Manchester; Cleveland, Waters and Bass of Concord; and Genus Resources, Needham, Mass.

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