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UNH Professor of Education Receives national Award for Book on Educational Philosophy

By Erika Mantz
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UNH News Bureau

April 10, 2002

DURHAM, N.H. - Scott Fletcher, assistant professor of education at the University of New Hampshire, was awarded a 2001 American Educational Studies Association Critics' Choice Award for his book, "Education and Emancipation: Theory and Practice in a New Constellation."

The American Educational Studies Association was established in 1968 as an international society for students, teachers, research scholars and administrators who are interested in the foundations of education.

In "Education and Emancipation: Theory and Practice in a New Constellation," Fletcher argues for a form of education that helps students develop autonomy, the ability to critically analyze the world around them, and provides them with the tools needed to be part of a democratic society. He also calls for educational philosophers who believe in emancipatory education to look beyond some of their more technical and theoretical differences and work together for educational reform.

"There is a lot of good work being done, but we're moving in the wrong direction both nationally and in New Hampshire," says Fletcher. "In the book, I argue that anything that homogenizes or standardizes instruction is wrong. We're living in an age where accountability is everything, and that forces many teachers to teach to the test. Vouchers, prescriptive curriculum frameworks and standardized tests harm children and make it more likely injustice will be perpetuated in society, not justice and not caring relationships."
Fletcher has taught at the middle and high school level and has participated in a number of national and local school reform initiatives. He is currently associate chair of UNH's Department of Education.

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