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UNH's Thompson School Offers New Associate Degree Program in Community Service and Leadership

By [Sharon Keeler](#)
UNH News Bureau

February 13, 2001

DURHAM, N.H. — Fall 2001 marks the first semester that the University of New Hampshire's Thompson School of Applied Science will offer an associate degree in community service and leadership.

Designed for those who want to translate a passion for activism into a career, this program will prepare students to work effectively in entry-level supervisory positions in a variety of community-focused organizations. It is designed to meet the needs of a diverse group of students, including recent high school graduates and experienced community-service workers.

The program will combine outreach with academic study, including courses such as supervising volunteers, leadership and group process, communication within communities, grant writing, and non-profit organization management.

Students will also participate in faculty-supervised internships in service-related organizations each semester. These establishments will include schools, crisis shelters, environmental organizations, nursing homes and town offices, as well as UNH organizations such as Cooperative Extension, the alumni office, and the Partnership for Social Action.

According to program chair Kate Hanson, the community service and leadership program will help students build valuable skills such as supervising volunteers, facilitating meetings, speaking in public, organizing events, writing press releases, and creating newsletters. In addition, they will learn to put these skills to work within diverse communities to find

positive solutions to shared programs and to effect social change at local, regional and national levels.

"The Thompson School is the perfect place to combine the more 'hands on' skills of community organizing with a solid academic foundation, since we already have a fine reputation for our applied approach to higher education," says Hanson.

The community service and leadership program is designed for both full- and part-time students interested in day or evening study. Students may apply to the program at any time during the year, but enrollment is limited to 20 students for the Fall 2001 semester.

For an application or more information about the program, contact: Kate Hanson, program chair, at 603-862-1025 or by email at mkh@cisunix.unh.edu.

Log on to the program Website at the URL:
<http://www.unh.edu/thompson-school/csl.html>

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