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UNH President Hosts Tour of Granite State for New Faculty

By Kim Billings
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DURHAM. N.H. University of New Hampshire President Joan Leitzel will accompany new faculty and administrators for three days around the state next week, showing them the impact UNH has on New Hampshire through its teaching, research and outreach. The trip begins Thursday, May 24, and ends late Saturday afternoon, May 26.

"Our faculty are engaged all over the state, from education to agriculture, from business and industry to health care," says Leitzel, "and our new faculty either are or will be a part of this commitment to the state." In addition, Leitzel says the tour is an opportunity for faculty to get acquainted with other colleagues in different disciplines.

The tour will hit all corners of the state, from the Seacoast to Nashua to Walpole, Hanover and Bethlehem. As with the past four tours, Steve Taylor, N.H. Commissioner of Agriculture, will serve as tour guide. "He really is the biggest fan of the state of New Hampshire, and knows all the secret places to visit," according to Connie Ellis, tour coordinator and director of Public Programs and Events.

The bus, with 21 new faculty, departs from UNH at 6:45 a.m. Thursday for Newcastle, where UNH researchers will show them various marine science research projects, such as open ocean aquaculture and mussel farms.

The next stop is at G.T. Equipment Technologies in Nashua, where officials there are working with faculty from the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences through the Industrial Research Center.
Other stops include the Stonewall Farm in Walpole, which has an extensive partnership with Cooperative Extension, and the Claremont Middle School, where UNH education faculty and extension educators have worked with teachers there to establish a highly successful after-school program.

Following a night at the Shaker Inn in Enfield, which features an organ demonstration and a lecture on the Shakers by Harvard historian Will Moore, the group leaves for Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, where UNH's School of Health and Human Services partners with the center. Other stops on Friday include New England Wire Company in Lisbon, which partners with New Hampshire Public Television to deliver long-distance learning opportunities around the state. New faculty also will visit The Rocks, where UNH's Faye Rubin works with the North Country Planning Council on the Route 2 corridor project using geographic satellite mapping.

Friday night is spent at The Balsams Grand Resort where, for many years, UNH has worked with resort owner Steve Barba. On Saturday, the group will travel to Bartlett, where UNH researcher James Ryan will explain UNH's research project, Groundwinds, a project on new technology that could greatly improve the ability to forecast weather. Groundwinds is run by scientists in UNH's Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space in conjunction with the Mount Washington Observatory.

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