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UNH Names New Associate Vice President for Research and Public Service

By [Jennifer Vento](#)
UNH News Bureau
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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire has named Julie Williams, former director of the Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute, Center for Public Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University, the new associate vice president for research and public service. Williams began Aug. 31.

The position of associate vice president for research and public service was created last fall in response to both record numbers of research grants being awarded to UNH and a commitment to outreach, according to Donald Sundberg, vice president for research and public service. Research funding at the university has increased from \$20 million in 1990 to \$78 million in 2000.

"With this activity, I think we now have become a full-fledged research university," Sundberg says.

Williams was appointed following a national search that began in February. "Dr. Williams brings an excellent array of professional experience coupled with an administrative style and leadership skills that are a well-suited match for the associate vice president for research and public service position to focus on the achievement of goals and strategies to further develop UNH as an engaged institution," says John Pike, dean and director of UNH Cooperative Extension and chair of the search committee.

Williams' position is three-fold. First, she will be responsible for providing leadership as the university seeks to create more opportunities of engagement, outreach and public service throughout the state and

region. Second, she will look to enhance the research and scholarship opportunities in the humanities, social sciences and health and human services.

"They really need support in a very different way than the physical sciences do," Sundberg says. "Julie has a very interesting background in putting together programs that have an outreach characteristic."

Williams will also work closely with the UNH Graduate School and will seek out interdisciplinary research opportunities throughout the schools and colleges of the university.

Third, Williams also will work with the Office of the Vice President for Research and Public Service in future planning and networking with state and private agencies.

Williams visited campus in the spring and says she was very impressed with the individuals dedicated to extending its impact.

"I am particularly interested in exploring and listening for all of the opportunities the university has to develop interdisciplinary research collaborations that can have specific outreach and teaching implications," Williams said. "I am excited about our numerous opportunities to further potential collaborative partnerships with state agencies, school systems, businesses and non-profit organizations throughout the region."

Prior to her appointment at UNH, Williams served a joint appointment at VCU in both the Center for Public Policy and as director of the Center for Psychological Services and Development. She led the Grace E. Harris Institute in its development of current and emerging leaders in academic institutions, public, private and non-profit organizations and communities. She also provided administrative consultation and program

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