

UNH Student Volunteers Are Honored at Recognition Ceremony

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UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. -- The annual Volunteer Recognition Reception, sponsored by the University of New Hampshire's Partnership for Social Action, will be held Tuesday, April 11, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Strafford Room of the Memorial Union Building.

UNH President Joan Leitzel and Leila Moore, vice president for student affairs, will welcome volunteers. Robin Albert, director of the United Way of the Greater Seacoast Volunteer Action Center, will be the keynote speaker. The second annual Volunteer of the Year award also will be presented.

According to Marianne Fortescue, student life program assistant, student service organizations have been invited to display highlights of their service efforts. More than 700 students are involved in more than 20 service-related organizations from Alternative Break Challenge to the Great Bay Kids Club and Circle K.

Recently, members of the UNH chapter of Circle K attended the annual district convention along with the other 20 clubs in New England, and came back to Durham with 13 awards.

Ten groups of ten students each just returned from Alternative Break Challenge (ABC), after traveling to different states around the country working with Habitat for Humanity to construct homes for the disadvantaged. "There are some awesome students out there doing amazing work," Fortescue says, "and the reception is designed to recognize their achievements."

Two weeks ago, Fortescue brought together more than 20 area community agencies at UNH for an all-day symposium with the faculty, staff and student groups with which they work.

Sponsored by UNH's Partnership for Social Action and

Campus Compact for New Hampshire (CCNH), the event was designed to bring together "the stakeholders to discuss the context and mission of campus/community collaborations," according to Fortescue.

The partnership office, housed in Student Affairs, matches campus groups interested in public service with area agencies. CCNH is a consortium of 23 colleges and universities committed to service, citizenship and community collaboration.

Area community agencies that attended include AIDS Response Seacoast, Dover Housing Authority, Seacoast Outright, the Family Support Center in Dover, and the Rochester and Farmington School Districts.

Funded in part by the Ford Foundation, the symposium "brought together more formally the faculty and other campus groups with the agencies we work with," explains Fortescue. "The partnerships we have with community groups are strong, but we also know our collaborations can lead to even greater social change and community revitalization."

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