

David Pearson Appointed Interim Dean of UNH School of Health and Human Services

By *Sharon Keeler*
UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. -- David Pearson, professor of health management and policy, has been appointed interim dean of the School of Health and Human Services at the University of New Hampshire. He replaces Raymond Coward, who left the university June 30 for a position at Pennsylvania State University.

Pearson came to UNH in 1989, and was the first person appointed as the Everett Sackett Professor. For six years he chaired the Department of Health Management and Policy, and was the director of its Master of Health Administration Program.

Prior to coming to UNH, Pearson worked for more than two decades at Yale University School of Medicine, where he was a faculty member in the Division of Health Services Administration of the Medical School's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (the Yale School of Public Health). His last 11 years at Yale were spent as associate dean for public health.

As interim dean, Pearson looks forward to leading the school as it undertakes an increasingly important role in New Hampshire.

"The programs at UNH are among the best in the nation, and are focused on the critical health and human services issues facing the state," says Pearson. "The goal is providing high quality care and services at the lowest cost. Our faculty and students are uniquely positioned to form alliances with the state in searching for solutions that will improve the quality of life and health care for all our citizens, from the rural elderly, to at-risk children, to those with disabilities."

Pearson is an expert in applying analytical concepts and techniques to better understand issues of national health policy and to better organize and manage health care organizations and services.

He has contributed to various legislative proposals, federal regulations and programs including Medicare, Medicaid, Regional Medical Programs, Comprehensive Health Planning, the Health Manpower and Nursing

Training Act, and Mortgage Insurance for Group Practice Plans. He was a major contributor in establishing the first federal program to assist the development of prepaid medical group practice plans (now Health Maintenance Organizations).

David Hiley, UNH provost and vice president for academic affairs, says, "The university is extremely fortunate that an educator and administrator of Dr. Pearson's caliber is available to us as interim dean. The School of Health and Human Services has gained real momentum in the areas of research, funding and scholarship. David Pearson is precisely the right person to keep things moving forward while we continue our search for a new dean."

The author or co-author of more than 60 articles and three books, Pearson has published in the areas of hospital cost containment, the economics of end-stage renal disease, regionalization of health services, long-term care, health care reform and health care utilization, as well as factors associated with identifying effective managers and leaders. Recently, he co-authored an article that compared the leadership characteristics of physician and non-physician managers.

Pearson holds a B.S. degree from the State University of New York at Cortland, an M.P.H. degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a Ph.D. from Yale University.

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