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## Top High School Students Get 'SMART' at UNH Summer Institute

By *Sharon Keeler*  
UNH News Bureau

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July 17, 2000

**Editors/News Directors:  
Media are invited to cover UNH's Project SMART. Professor Barry Rock can be reached at 603-862-1792. Professor Alan Baker can be reached at 603-862-3845. Professor James Haney can be reached at 603-862-2105. Professor Subhash Minocha can be reached at 603-862-2100.**

DURHAM, N.H. -- Seventy-five of New Hampshire's brightest high school students are going to college this summer as part of the University of New Hampshire's institute, Project SMART.

Science and Mathematics Achievement Research Training is a residential program held at UNH through July 28. The students participate in a comprehensive course on science, scientific thinking and problem solving. Areas of concentration include biotechnology, freshwater and marine biology, and environmental science.

Project SMART provides an advanced course of study that challenges, educates and motivates talented high school students in science, mathematics and computers, while acquainting them with the environment and resources of UNH as a place for higher education and research.

"It's an intensive live-in experience where participants learn the excitements of modern sciences and develop an historical and philosophical perspective for understanding the social and ethical issues raised by recent developments," says Subhash Minocha, professor of plant biology and Project SMART director.

For example, Minocha points out, students in the freshwater and marine biology program are studying such issues as lake management. They will be collecting crayfish and learning about algal toxins as part of their curriculum. Students in the biotechnology program are learning the latest techniques in cell culturing and DNA replication, while those in the

environmental science program are being taught about climate modeling, data collection and experimental design.

In addition to Minocha, who directs the biotechnology program, SMART faculty include James Haney, professor of zoology, and Alan Baker, associate professor of plant biology, directing the freshwater and marine science program. Barry Rock, professor of natural resources, directs the environmental science program.

On the final day of Project SMART, July 28, students will display the results of their group research projects in a scientific poster display from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Morse Hall Atrium. The public is invited to attend, and refreshments will be served.

UNH's Project SMART Summer Institute, now in its ninth year, is co-sponsored by UNH and the New Hampshire Space Grant Consortium. Additional support is provided by UNH's College of Life Sciences and Agriculture and Sea Grant Program. Numerous biotechnology companies provide generous donations of chemicals and equipment.

For more information, contact UNH Professor Subhash Minocha at 603-862-2100, or by email at [sminocha@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:sminocha@cisunix.unh.edu). Visit the Project SMART website at <http://www.smart.unh.edu>.

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