

UNH Announces Launch of Hamel Honors and Scholars College With \$20M Gift

Thursday, March 23, 2023



DURHAM, N.H.—The University of New Hampshire will open the Hamel Honors and Scholars College in fall of 2024 thanks to a \$20 million gift from longtime benefactor and UNH parent Dana Hamel. The support will allow for expansion of in-class and extracurricular opportunities for honors students and Hamel Scholars and create a dedicated living-learning community for high-achieving students.

Including this recent gift, Hamel's total lifetime giving makes him



LONGTIME UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BENEFACTOR DANA HAMEL TALKS WITH HAMEL SCHOLARS AT A 2021 LUNCHEON CELEBRATING THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. *COURTESY PHOTO UNH*

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the most generous philanthropist in the history of the university.

The gift will be used to renovate Huddleston Hall as the home of the honors college and increase the size of the Hamel Scholars program endowment. Founded in 2007 and funded through gifts from Hamel, the program will be part of the honors college and is UNH's most prestigious scholarship award.

"My vision for the college is to give hard-working and talented students the opportunity to thrive at a world-class institution," said Hamel. "My hope for these students is to be challenged to grow through engaged scholarship, academic challenge and self-determination to make a positive impact at UNH, in the state of New Hampshire and beyond."

The honors college represents a new differentiator for the state's flagship public university, providing high-achieving students an enriched academic experience in a significant revision and expansion of UNH's current honors program. It will emphasize connections between academic and experiential learning, enable students to create individualized honors experiences and offer greater opportunities to work with faculty mentors from all UNH colleges.

"We are so grateful to Dana for his incredible generosity and unwavering commitment to our students," said UNH President James W. Dean, Jr. "The Hamel Honors and Scholars College will be a tremendous point of pride for the entire university and an asset to the state, allowing us to offer an even more fulfilling experience to all of our honors students."

Hamel's gift will also enable growth of the Hamel Scholars program, which provides merit scholarships and special programming to exceptional students who have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership and community service. The gift will create new programming that will allow students to build connections with New Hampshire, national and international

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leaders and institutions and will help develop their leadership skills through workshops, trainings and experiences. They will also have increased opportunities to engage with the Hamel Scholars alumni community.

The proposed structure of the Hamel Honors and Scholars College will include a more flexible curriculum for students as compared to the current university honors program, allowing for the creation of individualized pathways as students choose how to distribute their honors work among courses, research and cocurricular experiences.

The first incoming cohort in the honors college, likely 250 to 300 students, is slated to be welcomed for the fall 2024 semester. The college is expected to serve roughly 1,000 students in total.

The [University of New Hampshire](#) inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, and received \$260 million in competitive external funding in FY21 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

Photos available for download:

https://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/sites/default/files/media/dana_hamel1.jpg

Longtime University of New Hampshire benefactor Dana Hamel talks with Hamel Scholars at a 2021 luncheon celebrating their accomplishments. *Courtesy photo UNH*

https://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/sites/default/files/media/230314_huddleston_renderings.pdf



Rendering of renovated Huddleston Hall, new home of the University of New Hampshire's Hamel Honors and Scholars

College. *Courtesy UNH*

Media Contact

Erika Mantz | Communications and Public Affairs |

erika.mantz@unh.edu



University of New Hampshire

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