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DURHAM, NH. –

The Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire has been awarded a $487,350 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to combat Internet crimes against children.

The grant, which was announced by NH Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, will be used to research Internet safety materials used by Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces. The research includes rating and comparing four prominent youth Internet safety curricula; conducting a process evaluation of Internet safety education by ICAC Task Forces; and providing recommendations to ICAC Task Forces to enhance prevention efforts.

"Parents are understandably concerned about their children's online safety, and this study will help ensure that efforts to protect children are effective and that mistakes are not made by rushing into things without knowing what works," said Lisa Jones, the principal investigator of the study.

The grant is made possible by the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This latest award brings the total amount of recent funding for CCRC research on children's Internet safety to more than $2 million.

Created in 1998, the UNH Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) works to combat crimes against children by providing high-quality research and statistics to the public, policy makers, law enforcement personnel, and other child welfare practitioners. CCRC is concerned with research about the nature of crimes including child abduction, homicide, rape, assault, and physical and sexual abuse as well as their impact. Associated with the CCRC is an internationally recognized group of experts who have published numerous books and articles concerning the incidence and impact of violence against children. Visit the center online at http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/index.html.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling more than 12,200 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students.
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