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DURHAM, N.H. - The Center for Family Business at the University of New Hampshire will launch its next Leadership Development Program Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

"The Leadership Development Program is effective in assisting the next generation to assume greater leadership roles in their family businesses. Attendees develop confidence, plan for the future, learn to apply new management skills to company projects and build a peer network of support," says Stephen Fink, professor emeritus of management and organizational behavior, who teaches the class.

Some families have enrolled both senior and next generations in the same class and found even greater value in the program. Bill Harris, CEO of Harris Family Furniture, recently completed the class with two members of his next generation. "I found the program to be of great value and encourage other seniors to participate. It has opened communication and dialogue in our family," Harris said.

The program includes:

- The development of a Personal Strategic Plan by each participant.
- Opportunities to receive personal feedback on strengths and weaknesses.
- Opportunities to gain a different perspective about family businesses through site visits to family-owned businesses.
- Ongoing encouragement to apply learning and share it with others.
- Attendance by other members of the same family at a specified session.

The 8-session program meets once a month for full-day work sessions. A certificate in family business leadership will be awarded to those who attend at least six of the eight sessions. All sessions are taught at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester. For additional information about the 2008 program and dates of the work sessions, visit http://www.familybusiness.unh.edu/leadership/index.html.

The deadline to enroll is March 4, 2008. Tuition is $1,895 for members and $2,250 for nonmembers. For more information contact Barbara Draper at barbara.draper@unh.edu or (603) 862-1107.

The center, under UNH's Whittemore School of Business and Economics and the UNH Graduate School, is sponsored by Mass Mutual Financial Group, Thomas Davidow & Assoc., Baker Newman & Noyes, Pierce Atwood, MPI Management Planning, Inc., and Ocean Bank. It is a membership program to provide owners and managers of entrepreneurial businesses with an opportunity to exchange ideas and information and to discuss business challenges and solutions.
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