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UNH Awards Scholarships to Technical College Students

By *Michelle Gregoire*
UNH News Bureau

July 27, 2000

DURHAM, N.H. —Two students transferring to the University of New Hampshire from the New Hampshire Community Technical College System (NHCTCS) were awarded a full year's tuition in a ceremony at UNH Tuesday, July 25.

Merit scholarships were presented to Petra Rozell of Manchester and John Weismantel of Rochester by UNH President Joan Leitzel and NHCTCS Commissioner Glenn DuBois. Rozell and Weismantel are entering UNH after completing a two-year degree at a community technical college. The scholarships, valued at \$5,770, are renewable.

"The university is pleased to be able to provide these students the chance to continue their education," said Leitzel. "These scholarships are a significant symbolic step in the effort to create an integrated system of higher education in New Hampshire."

The Board of Trustees of the University System of New Hampshire recently adopted recommendations to improve the ease with which NHCTCS students can transfer to UNH, Plymouth, or Keene State colleges and apply their prior credits toward a four-year degree. Presently, 118 former NHCTCS students are enrolled at UNH.

DuBois said, "I want to applaud President Leitzel's leadership in providing this very useful scholarship opportunity. We're proud of these students, and we know they'll do well at the university. We're looking forward to sending more community technical college students to the university system. Together, both our college sectors can work to keep more students in New Hampshire."

Turning to the scholarship recipients, Leitzel said, "We chose you out of a strong pool of students, which speaks to your qualifications."

Rozell, 26, a native of the Czech Republic, earned an associate's degree in nursing at the New Hampshire Community Technical College in Manchester,

graduating with a cumulative grade point average of 3.46 (out of a possible 4.0). She worked for a year as a technician in an intensive care unit at Manchester's Elliot Hospital before deciding to return to college. Accepted as a sophomore into the Spanish program at UNH, Rozell hopes to become an interpreter or teacher.

Weismantel, 21, graduated from Spaulding High School in Rochester in 1997 and spent a year working in the commercial fishing industry in Alaska. Upon his return to New Hampshire, he enrolled at the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord, where he earned a grade point average of 3.84 and a degree in applied engineering technology. He has been accepted as a junior in the engineering technology program at UNH and will focus on mechanical engineering technology. He is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The entire Weismantel family are community technical college graduates. John's father, John R. Weismantel, earned his associate's degree in mechanical engineering in 1972; John's mother, Barbara, is a 1999 graduate of the registered nursing program; and his sister, Carie, graduated from the veterinary technician program in 1998. The tradition continues: John's fiancée, Abby Dupuis, is enrolled in the early childhood education program.

The community technical college system, offering courses at seven campuses and six satellite locations, awards associate degrees and certificates. The majority of NHCTCS students are adults who want to continue their education or gain new skills.

UNH offers 2,000 courses in more than 100 majors, features a strong undergraduate research program, and offers doctoral degrees in 21 disciplines.

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