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UNH Alumni Association Program Wins National Award

By *Maggie Paine*
UNH Alumni Association

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire Alumni Association has been elected to the Associations Advance America Honor Roll, a national awards competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives, according to Ernie Gale, alumni association executive director.

The alumni association received the award for its UNH Advocates for Higher Education program, designed to raise public awareness about the important role higher education plays in the state's future. The advocates network provides a way for graduates of the university to help increase state support for their alma mater. UNH President Joan Leitzel cites their efforts as one of the keys to the 4.7 percent increase approved by the legislature last summer.

"I'm delighted to see the program receive this kind of recognition in its first year of operation," Gale says. "It clearly demonstrates the organization and dedication of the program's director and the many volunteers who made it a success."

Sponsored by the UNH Alumni and Parents Associations, membership is open to anyone who cares about higher education in New Hampshire, according to Maggie Morrison, program director.

"From time to time, members are asked to write or call their local legislators and let them know about the university's position on a legislative issue," Morrison explains. "Alumni and parents know first-hand that UNH is an asset to the state in preparing well-educated and trained citizens to meet the demands of New Hampshire's economy."

Now in its ninth year, the Associations Advance America Awards recognizes associations that move the nation forward through innovative projects in education, skills training, standards- setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship and community service.

For more information on the UNH Advocates for Higher Education, contact Morrison at (603) 862-2499

or check the alumni association's website at
www.unh.edu/alumni/programs.html.

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