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UNH Forum Will Help Families Do Better Business

Meadows to Discuss Systems Thinking

By *Tracy Manforte*

UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. -- Systems thinking for the family-owned business will be the topic of a workshop presented by the University of New Hampshire Center for Family Business Tuesday, Nov. 16.

Led by UNH Professor Dennis Meadows, "Systems Thinking in the Family Business" will help employers get to the root of problems, examine similarities that persist over time, design orderly solutions and identify potential future crises. The workshop will be held at the New England Center from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast run from 8:30 to 9 a.m.

According to Meadows, an expert in management training and strategy, a common problem in many organizations is a pattern of responding to a problem with policies that make the symptoms disappear for awhile, but actually make the underlying problem worse. Organizations can become addicted to debt, downsizing, outside consultants and price discounting, for example.

Meadows will introduce the general principles of systems thinking and will use them to describe common business addictions and discuss responses. Participants will adapt these concepts to diagnose a problem in their own organization.

The workshop is offered through the Center for Family Business' Shapiro Forum for the Entrepreneurial Family. It is sponsored by MassMutual, BankBoston, and Cleveland, Waters and Bass Attorneys at Law. For more information, call 603-862-1107.

October 29, 1999

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