USNH Announces Additional Campus Safety Efforts as Result of Comprehensive Review

March 27, 2015 – University System of New Hampshire officials announced today additional proactive measures to further tighten procedures and policies to address recent incidents of misconduct on their campuses. These changes come in response to independent reviews undertaken to assure every student can receive a high quality education in a safe and secure environment.

“Today marks the conclusion of a long, thorough investigative review process. It has been the total commitment of our presidents, the system office and the USNH board of trustees to address each of these incidents aggressively, transparently and take immediate steps to minimize the possibility of having them occur again,” said USNH Chancellor Todd Leach. “Too many of these occurrences happen across the country every year, but one is too many for our campuses.”

The presidents of both Keene State College and the University of New Hampshire joined system officials to release findings of investigations of misconduct that have occurred on their campuses and proactive steps they have taken to address student safety. In addition, the USNH board of trustees released the findings of a system-wide review conducted to update campus procedures.

Former New Hampshire Attorney General Michael Delaney, a partner at the McLane Law Firm, conducted the investigation into incidents at Keene State and UNH. The review was completed by attorney David Wolowitz, a nationally recognized expert on policies and procedures relating to the protection of students from harassment and misconduct under the federal statute known as Title IX.

“I own the obligation to ensure the college provides a respectful, healthy environment for all who work and study in our community. The investigations that I initiated through McLane are critical to identifying the changes that need to be made – many of which we took action on while the investigation was underway,” said Keene State College President Anne Huot. “My dedication to the students, faculty and staff at Keene State is unwavering. Keene State remains strong through these changes.”

“It is my responsibility as president to provide a safe and supportive environment for our entire community and I take that responsibility very seriously,” said UNH President Mark Huddleston. “The findings determined that additional training and education is needed around reporting throughout the university and in athletics in particular. That effort is underway and will remain an ongoing priority. I am committed to fostering a campus community that respects and cares for everyone.”

“We stand with our Presidents in their actions taken in dealing with each of these incidents and will work with each campus and the Chancellor in making the schools the safest possible for our students, faculty, staff and the community,” said USNH Board Chair Pamela Diamantis. “Our commitment has been and continues to be in creating a college environment that places the safety of our students at the forefront.”

For inquiries into the investigations at Keene State College, contact Kelly Ricaurte, kricaurte@keene.edu, (603) 358-2119. The reports can be accessed online at: http://www.keene.edu/president
For inquiries into the investigation at the University of New Hampshire, contact Erika Mantz, erika.mantz@unh.edu, (603)-862-1567. The report can be accessed online at http://www.unh.edu/president/ontherecord

For information on the system-wide review of policies, contact Tiffany Eddy at tiffany.eddy@usnh.edu (603) 657-6471. The review can be accessed online at usnh.edu