

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**UNH'S INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND JUSTICEWORKS
RECEIVES GRANT TO DEVELOP A MODEL TO SUPPORT
YOUTHS WITH DISABILITIES LEAVING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

DURHAM – A four-year project at the University of New Hampshire will work to create a system of supports and services to help youths with disabilities whose school and community participation has been or would otherwise be disrupted due to delinquent behavior.

School and Community Reentry for Juvenile Offenders with Disabilities is a collaborative project of the Institute on Disability and Justiceworks at the University of New Hampshire and the Alliance for Community Supports, funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education for \$180,000 per year for four years.

Guided by a Steering Committee of state and local agency representatives, the project will assist 60 participants in Nashua, NH, to complete high school, obtain initial work experience, develop a futures plan, and achieve a stable living situation and system of community supports.

Led by co-directors David Hagner, Ph.D., of the Institute on Disability and Michael Skibbie, J.D., of Justiceworks, the project will work to: increase the percentage of youth offenders with disabilities who progress satisfactorily to high school graduation; engage participants in a self-directed planning process to identify personal career plans, and; increase the capacity of schools and community organizations to provide effective supports to juvenile offenders with disabilities.

The Institute on Disability's mission is to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities into their schools and communities. The Institute works with students and faculty, conducts statewide training, participates in grant-funded model demonstration projects, conducts research and engages in collaborative partnerships with other statewide organizations that are committed to improving the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.

The Institute on Disability, together with the Center for Genetics and Child Development at Dartmouth Medical School; the Institute for Health, Law, and Ethics at Franklin Pierce Law Center; and the Center for Community Economic Development at Southern New Hampshire University comprise New Hampshire's University Center for Excellence (UCE).

For more information, visit the Institute on Disability's Web site at www.iod.unh.edu.

Justiceworks is an applied research consortium of academics, criminal justice professionals, and policymakers who work collaboratively to address timely and pressing issues in crime and the administration of justice. Founded in 1999 at the University of New Hampshire to extend the institution's land grant mission to the criminal justice system, Justiceworks has three main missions:

- Provide accessible, timely, and affordable evaluations of state and local programs aimed at minimizing crime and delinquency,
- Provide useful and current information about crime and crime control strategies to planners, policy makers, and those working within or interested in the field of criminal justice, and
- Develop and provide new training opportunities in criminal justice to multiple audiences within the justice system in the region. Those opportunities include but are not limited to workshops, seminars, graduate coursework, and web-based distance learning in both real and asynchronous time.

For more information about Justiceworks, visit its Web site at: www.justiceworks.unh.edu.

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The Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire, is a University Center for Excellence, established in 1987 with a mission to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into their communities.