



UNIVERSITY of  
MASSACHUSETTS  
150 Infirmary Way  
Amherst, MA 01003-9288

University Health Services

voice: 413.577.5000

fax: 413.577.5488

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Dunbar Scully, UHS Communications & Marketing  
(413) 577-5077; [kdscully@uhs.umass.edu](mailto:kdscully@uhs.umass.edu)

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### National meeting honors program, features campus experts

AMHERST, Mass. – UMass Amherst's BASICS alcohol screening and intervention program will be honored during the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) national meeting, an event also featuring three university prevention experts.

At the conference, Nov. 16 – 19 in St. Paul, Minn., Sally Linowski, Ph.D., director of the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention, and project director Diane Fedorchak, M.Ed., will accept an award recognizing BASICS as an exemplary program. As one of only two in the nation so designated by the DOE this year, BASICS received nearly \$200,000 in grant funds to increase capacity and disseminate information.

In addition, Linowski, Fedorchak and Gloria DiFulvio, Ph.D., of the university's Commonwealth College honors program will share their expertise with colleagues from across the country during a two-part educational session on screening and brief interventions to reduce high-risk drinking.

The pre-eminent gathering for higher education professionals, the DOE's annual meeting explores issues ranging from substance abuse and violence to mental health and emergency preparedness on campuses and in their surrounding communities.

BASICS is part of the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention at University Health Services (UHS). The center's cutting-edge environmental management approach to prevention is having a significant effect on risky behavior among students, including a 38% reduction in binge drinking, a 26% decline in frequent binge drinking and a 14% drop in underage binge drinking.

UHS, UMass Amherst's fully accredited health center, serves students, faculty and staff. The center offers comprehensive care, referral and education services, with a special focus on the health needs and concerns of students. For more information, visit [www.umass.edu/uhs](http://www.umass.edu/uhs), or call (413) 577-5000.