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PRESS RELEASE

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UMass Amherst prevention program earns grant, recognition

AMHERST, Mass. – UMass Amherst's BASICS alcohol and other drug abuse prevention program is receiving national recognition and nearly \$200,000 in grant funds as part of a U.S. Department of Education model program competition.

The grant program's goal is to identify and share information about effective alcohol and other drug abuse prevention programs on college campuses. The university's BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students) project is one of only two in the nation rated as "exemplary" by the competition's peer reviewers, and is among just five schools receiving funding. Other recipients were the University of Houston; the University of Pennsylvania; the University of Wyoming; and Virginia Commonwealth University.

BASICS is part of University Health Services' Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention (CADAP), which designs, implements and evaluates campus prevention initiatives. CADAP's cutting-edge environmental management approach 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.

More than 2,600 students have participated in BASICS since its inception in 2006. Funding from the new grant will be used to increase the program's capacity, reduce wait times between referral and intervention, and measure the effectiveness of feedback boosters delivered electronically after students complete the program.

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 or call (413) 577-5000