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PRESS RELEASE

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Campus prevention experts to lead training

AMHERST, Mass. – Substance abuse prevention professionals are convening in North Carolina this month, for a two-day training led by experts from UMass Amherst's Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention (CADAP).

CADAP director Sally A. Linowski, Ph.D., and Diane Fedorchak, M.Ed., director of the center's BASICS program, are presenting "The Basics of BASICS" May 13 – 14 at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly conference center in Black Mountain, N.C. The training is sponsored by The Network, a national consortium of more than 1,600 members working to reduce alcohol and other drug problems at colleges and universities.

UMass Amherst's BASICS program provides alcohol and other drug screening and brief interventions for students. Part of a comprehensive environmental management approach to prevention, the program is recognized as exemplary by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). Since CADAP was created in 2006, the university has seen a 38% reduction in binge drinking, a 26% decline in frequent binge drinking and a 14% drop in underage binge drinking.

The interactive workshop will help participants develop an implementation plan and provide the tools necessary to bring BASICS to their campuses. Topics will include a program overview; steps for getting started; project management guidance; tips for working with campus and community allies; the importance of evaluation; and sustainability planning.

Dr. Linowski is a nationally recognized substance abuse prevention expert with nearly two decades of experience in implementation, research and higher education. In addition to directing CADAP, she is an adjunct faculty member of the UMass Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences; co-chair of the Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk Drinking; principal investigator of a DOE model program grant to enhance and disseminate BASICS; and principal investigator of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant which funded BASICS' initial implementation.

Fedorchak is a health educator with nearly a decade of experience specializing in alcohol and other drug abuse prevention. In addition to directing the university's BASICS project, she coordinates its Fresh & Sober program for students in recovery, and is active in the Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk 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, or call (413) 577-5000.