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PRESS RELEASE

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Prevention conference features university experts

AMHERST, Mass. – Representatives from University Health Services (UHS) and the School of Public Health and Health Sciences (SPHHS) at UMass Amherst will be among the featured presenters at the 2012 NASPA Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention and Intervention Conference, Jan. 19 – 21 in Atlanta, Ga.

UMass Amherst's nationally recognized environmental management approach to substance abuse prevention has helped decrease dangerous drinking among students by as much as 48% since 2005. NASPA, the foremost professional association in the student affairs field, has featured university experts at its prevention conference seven times in the past three years.

Diane Fedorchak, M.Ed., director of the BASICS alcohol and other drug abuse prevention program at UHS, and SPHHS assistant professor Gloria DiFulvio, Ph.D., will lead "Digital Stories: Shining Light on Hidden Voices." The session explores this emergent research method as a tool for understanding and assisting vulnerable populations including gender variant youth and students struggling with addiction.

Fedorchak and Sally A. Linowski, Ph.D., director of UHS' Center for Health Promotion and co-chair of the Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk Drinking, will be joined by Dolores Cimini, Ph.D., of the University at Albany/SUNY for "Engaging Human Capital: Fostering Collaborations and Stakeholder Enthusiasm for Alcohol and other Drug Interventions." The team will call on experiences at both schools to show how simple efforts can help evidence-based intervention programs succeed.

The NASPA conference brings together senior-level campus administrators, alcohol education specialists, health promotion and prevention staff, and researchers from the alcohol and other drug arena to focus on advancing knowledge of student affairs educators and information-sharing about alcohol and other drug use on college and university campuses. Learn more at www.naspa.org/programs/aapc.

UHS is UMass Amherst's fully accredited campus health center, offering comprehensive care, education and referral services for students, faculty and staff. For more information, visit www.umass.edu/uhs, or call (413) 577-5000.