

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Sharyn Potter, PhD
Executive Director of Research
Sharyn.Potter@unh.edu

Jane Stapleton, MA
Executive Director of Practice
Jane.Stapleton@unh.edu

Prevention Innovations Research Center
(603) 862 5023

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UNH's Prevention Innovations Research Center Luncheon Recognizes Upper Valley Practitioner for Her Work in Ending Gender-Based Violence

DURHAM, N.H. – The Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC) at the University of New Hampshire hosted the PIRC Practitioner Award luncheon today at UNH to recognize the work of Kate Rohdenburg, a program director with WISE, a community-based program in the Upper Valley that works to end gender-based violence.

Sharyn Potter, PIRC executive director of research stated, "We are very pleased to recognize Kate Rohdenburg, of WISE, as the recipient of this year's Practitioner Award. We established the Practitioner Award to highlight the committed and talented individuals that make a difference every day in the lives of victims and survivors of sexual and relationship violence and stalking." Jane Stapleton, executive director of practice at PIRC, continued, "We value the work of advocates and other practitioners to keep victims and their children safe, to help survivors to heal, and to help communities to eradicate sexual and domestic violence.

For more information, contact:

prevention.innovations@unh.edu | 1-603-862-5023
www.colc.unh.edu/prevention-innovations-research-center



**University of
New Hampshire**

Lyn Schollett, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, added, "Kate has been a key player in advocating for sustainable, innovative, and trauma-informed prevention programming across New Hampshire. We thank her for her commitment to prevention and victims services in NH. Congratulations to Kate on receiving this well-deserved award."

Congresswoman Ann Kuster offered her congratulations stating, "I deeply appreciate Kate's commitment to preventing sexual violence and the work she does on this issue to help the people of the Upper Valley. This community owes advocates and agencies, like Kate and WISE, their support, and I am grateful that PIRC has established this award to recognize often unsung heroes like Kate in our communities. Thank you again, Kate, for all that you do."

"Kate is an extraordinary person," said Peggy O'Neil, executive director of [WISE](#). "Her passion for and activism to end gender-based violence transcends her role at WISE. This is her calling as a person and as a professional. She is a tireless and passionate prevention practitioner and activist."

Established in 2015, the PIRC Practitioner Award recognizes individuals for their vision and leadership in ending gender-based violence, including sexual and relationship violence and stalking. It honors individual accomplishments, rather than the work of an organization.

"I am deeply honored by the nomination from my colleagues at WISE," said Rohdenburg. "I feel so fortunate to be able to work in a field that is changing the world, and can't imagine a more important cause for my personal and professional life. I am enormously grateful to PIRC for their work providing evidence to support practice and their recognition of practitioners in New Hampshire."

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[Prevention Innovations Research Center](#) is internationally recognized for its collaborative research and community engagement focusing on sexual and relationship violence and stalking prevention and response. It conducts scholarly, cutting-edge research that informs policy and practice and convenes practitioners and researchers to develop strategies for evidence-based, innovative approaches to violence prevention. In addition, PIRC's team of researchers and practitioners provide training for university, military

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and community practitioners, mentor students, support community-based practitioners, and advise institutions.

WISE is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting people and communities impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking. **WISE** leads the Upper Valley to end gender-based violence through survivor-centered advocacy, prevention, education and mobilization for social change. **WISE** offers a confidential and free 24-hour crisis line, peer support groups and workshops, emergency shelter and transitional housing, safety planning and accompaniment to hospitals, police stations, court houses and other social service agencies. The Prevention and Education Program works with youth, professionals, and the community to develop relevant and comprehensive prevention strategies. **WISE** is committed to engaging everyone in learning to recognize and eliminate the root causes of violence. **WISE** believes in empowerment and knows that individuals make their best decisions when they have information and support.

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