Mark W. Huddleston

Mark W. Huddleston was elected the 19th president of the University of New Hampshire in July 2007, bringing three decades of experience in public and private education as a faculty member, dean and senior administrator.

At UNH, President Huddleston oversees the implementation of a strategic plan that is transforming the University’s mission as the state’s flagship public research university and one of the nation’s few land-, sea- and space-grant universities. Created through a collaboration of faculty, students, staff, alumni and the University’s wider communities, this effort challenges the University to be innovative, entrepreneurial and responsive so that it can remain vital and financially sustainable.

The plan continues to guide the University’s diverse work, from its response to a historic cut in state support in 2011 to the creation of groundbreaking new initiatives. Among these are:

- the integration of UNH and the UNH School of Law (formerly Franklin Pierce Law Center),
- an expansion of the UNH Manchester campus and the creation of the Emerging Technology Center,
- the construction of the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics,
- UNH’s participation in an agreement to double the number of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) graduates by 2025,
- and the development of a comprehensive fundraising campaign.

President Huddleston has also advocated for a dramatic increase in international engagement. In 2010, UNH launched the state’s only Confucius Institute with a partnership with Chengdu University, entered a partnership with Navitas, an Australian firm that recruits and supports international students, and celebrated the 25th anniversary of the International Affairs Dual Major.

In May 2013, President Huddleston’s leadership as a strategic thinker, fiscal steward and collaborative problem-solver was recognized with his appointment to the newly formed Governor’s Commission on State Government Innovation, Efficiency and Transparency.

President Huddleston was raised in Syracuse, N.Y., and was the first member of his family to attend college. He earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from the State University of New York-Buffalo, and both a master’s degree and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

He began his academic career at SUNY-Buffalo in 1977 as an assistant professor of political science. In 1980, he joined the faculty of the University of Delaware, where he served 24 years. There, he chaired the Department of Political Science and International Relations and was associate provost for international programs. In 2001, he was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, overseeing 45 academic departments and centers, and serving in that capacity until he was named president of Ohio Wesleyan University in 2004.
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An author of numerous books and articles, he has been a consultant for both the U.S. government and international organizations. He also served as an adviser in Bosnia on rebuilding financial and administrative infrastructures after the Dayton accords. President Huddleston is an incorporator of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and serves on the board of directors of the New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts. He and his wife, Emma Bricker, have three children, Andy, Kate and Giles.