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### **Rivier University to host opioid education event on February 8**

January 28, 2016 – NASHUA, NH—In response to rising opioid abuse in New Hampshire, Rivier University will host an AnyOne.AnyTime.NH event on February 8. Created by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the goal of the program is to educate the public and professionals about addiction, emergency overdose medications, and support services for anyone experiencing opioid addiction.

Sponsored jointly by the University’s Nursing and Social Work programs, the Rivier Task Force on Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs, and the Counseling and Wellness Center, the program addresses misuse of heroin, street fentanyl, other illicit opioids, and prescription drugs. Its aim is to begin a conversation with students and the local community about this escalating epidemic and the resources available to combat drug overdoses and addiction.

“The AnyOne.AnyTime.NH campaign addresses a serious public health issue by creating greater awareness through education,” says Bobbie Bagley, Director of Rivier’s Public Health program. “Rivier is proud to serve the local community and the state by assisting in the response to this ongoing challenge.”

The program features a panel discussion with members of law enforcement, the recovery community and the medical community. Karyn Madore, M.Ed., will moderate the discussion. “In 2014, more than 300 people in New Hampshire died as a result of drug overdose, the majority of which have been related to opioids,” says Ms. Madore, Operations Director and a Senior Consultant with the Community Health Institute, New Hampshire’s Public Health Institute, and an adjunct professor at Rivier University.

Rivier’s Counseling and Wellness Center works to support the physical, emotional, spiritual, social, and intellectual health of students. “We hear from students weekly about family and friends who struggle with addiction,” says Pam Graesser, Director of Rivier’s Counseling and Wellness Center. “This crisis touches all of us in some way.”

The public is invited to attend, especially people experiencing addiction, parents, family and friends of those experiencing addiction, and healthcare, safety, and other professional staff working with these populations. The February 8 event will take place from 4-6 p.m. in the Dion Center Reception Room at Rivier University in Nashua. Register now at <http://anyoneanytimeatrivier.eventbrite.com>.

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