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Vermont Women in Higher Education

For Immediate Release

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KIM AND FITZGERALD HONORED WITH VWHE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Vermont Women in Higher Education (VWHE) recently awarded grants to two women, helping them to reach lifelong professional goals.

The grants are part of an initiative by VWHE called the Educational and Professional Development Fund, intending to recognize women currently working in Vermont higher education who want to further their career. This is the second year VWHE has given the grants, worth up to \$1,000 each.

“Our two grant recipients exemplify what Vermont Women in Higher Education is all about,” says Carol Ward, chair of VWHE’s State Planning Committee. “One is a faculty member who wants to further her own education, the other a young woman right out of graduate school, ready to launch her career. VWHE cultivates women leaders, and we are so proud to support the important work of these two incredible people.”

A field ecology instructor at the Community College of Vermont, **Heather Fitzgerald** put her grant towards tuition for a master’s level field course offered at Antioch New England Graduate School, “Community Ecology of the New England Landscape.”

Fitzgerald, a resident of Burlington, Vt., is thrilled to take this course taught by Tom Wessels, a leader in field ecology. His writing has inspired both her and her students, bringing “the woods alive in a way that students can go out and implement immediately,” she says. The VWHE grant enables Fitzgerald to study with Wessels before he retires. “I anticipate that learning from [Wessels] will improve my field skills and assist me in designing an upper level field course,” she says.

The second grant recipient, **Chong Sun Kim**, used her grant to attend the joint conference of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) this past April.

Kim is a two-time graduate of the University of Vermont, receiving her bachelor’s degree in 2005, and her master’s degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration in May 2007. In her grant application, Kim described how attending the ACPA/NASPA conference represented a start in her journey as a new professional. “As a first-generation college student and a woman of color, I am looking forward to attending this conference to gain insight, and to

collaborate with other women in the student affairs profession,” she says. “I hope to impact the lives of other women who are striving to achieve their goals.” Kim resides in Burlington, Vt.

VWHE is sponsored by the American Council on Education’s Office of Women in Higher Education, based in Washington, D.C., and has been active in the state of Vermont for over 20 years. VWHE works to foster connections among women in various sectors of higher education, promote women's leadership and encourage and support women leaders of diverse backgrounds. In addition, VWHE works through state and national organization networks to identify, recommend and advance women in higher education here in Vermont. The organization maintains an open membership policy and welcomes the participation of women from all levels of administration, staff and faculty.

Additional information on Vermont Women in Higher Education can be found at **www.vwhe.org**.

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