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Computer Equipment Donation Earmarked for UM Students with Disabilities

A donation of computer equipment to the University of Maine Department of Public Administration will soon allow graduate students with disabilities to contact people and access information on campus from their homes.

Through a Computer Lab Program conducted as a community relations effort by Digital Equipment Corp. of August, in cooperation with French River Education Center of North Oxford, Mass., UM will receive a DECstation 212lp personal computing system, an LA75 Companion Printer and software, all with a total retail value of \$4,700.

The equipment will be installed in the homes of UM graduate students with disabilities who are enrolled in Department of Public Administration courses.

The first to receive the system will be an

incoming graduate student in the Department who has lost certain memory functions because of multiple operations for a brain tumor. In addition to compensating for the memory problem with copious notes on the computer, the student will have the capability of accessing library information from his home through a telephone modem, according to J. Steven Ott, UM director of graduate programs in public administration and the coordinator of the Digital donation.

The Digital program could open opportunities for more students with disabilities in the public administration field, according to G. Thomas Taylor, chairperson of the Department of Public Administration, which offers such courses as Health Care Policy and Administration, and Financial

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Management in Health Care (both graduate-level), and Health Care and Human Services Administration (undergraduate).

The Computer Lab Program is now being used by the Independence Association, a Brunswick group working with people with disabilities; Looking up, an Augusta organization for survivors of incest; and Waterville Junior High School.