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The UMass/Boston Friday Report

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News and information about and for the
Community from the Chancellor's Office

University to Teach Free-Enterprise Management Skills To 45 Senior Business Executives from Former Soviet Union

Beginning next fall UMass/Boston will provide intensive training to 45 high-level business executives from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) who are taking part in a two-year program designed to educate them in Western management practices and the free enterprise system. The first group of 25 administrators, from oil industry companies located in the oil-rich regions of the former Soviet Union, will come to the campus in September, and during a 33-week period take business management and English language courses. The following month, a second group of 20 CIS business executives from such industries as manufacturing, transportation and telecommunications will arrive at the University for 30 weeks of training.

The Russian Oil Industry Executive Program is jointly organized by UMass/Boston, the Boston-based Center for International Business Education and Development, and the USA Association for Corrosion Protection, a consortium of companies from Russia, the United States, Italy and Japan which is working to promote business practices that will help preserve the environment. UMass/Boston's College of Management will provide the academic setting for the program. Faculty from the college and from the University's Graduate Program in English as a Second Language will teach the courses to the visiting executives.

"There are many reasons why it makes sense to house this program at UMass/Boston," said **Lev Zak**, one of the program organizers and president of the USA Center for International Business Education and Development. "But perhaps the chief reason is UMass/Boston's exceptional strength in environmental sciences and its new specialization for MBA students in the area of environmental management. There are terrible environmental problems in the oil-producing regions of Russia, and the executives in charge of these companies are eager to find methods for making their businesses both ecologically stable and safe."

One of the most interesting aspects of the Russian Oil Industry Executive Program is that at the conclusion of their classroom training all of the 50 visiting managers will become executives-in-residence for one year at various American companies throughout the United States. A similar program designed by Zak was based last year at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Those who took part in the program served as executives-in-residence at such companies as United Airlines, 20th Century Fox, HBO, Norwest Bank, Dresser Industries, Pratt and Whitney, the United Parcel Service and numerous other firms.

Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney** said that the program "will broaden the international perspectives of the University and over time help Massachusetts to enhance its economic competitiveness in the global marketplace. We look forward to having the CIS executives on the campus and anticipate learning as much from them as I hope they will learn from us." According to **John A. Hughes**, UMass/Boston's director of professional training programs, the visiting executives

will be introduced to wholly new concepts during their stay on the campus. "The majority of these visiting executives have attained master's or Ph.D.'s in various fields of study," he said, "but neither their training nor their culture has given them any experience with Western business practices. They know very little about the free-enterprise system."

Classes for the oil executives will take place from Monday through Thursday, for six hours each day. The English language courses will be taught in the first 13 weeks of the academic program, followed by two separate 10-week sessions devoted to an exploration of business management skills. Several UMass/Boston students will serve as teaching assistants. The second group of administrators, from various businesses within the former Soviet Union, will already have had some English language instruction by the time they arrive here. At UMass/Boston they will receive 33 weeks of intensive business-management training, with a small portion of time set aside for additional English language instruction.

American firms participating in the program, as well as those companies in the CIS which have selected their executives for the program, are covering the costs associated with the CIS business executives' stay in the U.S. In addition to paying for instructors and teaching materials, the companies are providing the executives and their families with stipends to help underwrite their living expenses, and expect to place them in apartments throughout the Greater Boston area. On August 11th, organizers of the Russian Oil Industry Executive Program will hold a workshop for the CIS executives and management personnel and representatives from American companies and government. The workshop will be the first of several meetings that will take place on a monthly basis throughout the duration of the program. The meetings are aimed at helping CIS executives and American companies develop business relationships.

Federal Grant Aids Other Public Institutions To Replicate University's Adaptive Computer Lab

UMass/Boston recently was awarded \$80,000 to underwrite the first year of a program that will help public colleges and universities in Massachusetts set up special computer facilities for students with disabilities. The grant, which could provide up to \$240,000 over the next three years, comes from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education. Under the terms of the grant, UMass/Boston will be responsible for helping four institutions each year to establish a computer laboratory for students with disabilities. To date, a number of public university and college campuses have asked UMass/Boston for assistance in getting such facilities underway. UMass/Boston is working with four community colleges during the first year of the grant. They are Cape Cod, Mount Wachusset, Roxbury and Mass Bay community colleges. The \$80,000 for the first year of the program covers the cost of evaluating the four institutions and determining what kinds of computer equipment each needs. The state is providing an additional \$60,000 -- \$15,000 to each campus -- for the purchase of special equipment. Each of the four community colleges is expected to have a computer center for disabled students up and running by this September. **John Murphy**, manager of research computing at the University, and **Charlotte Corbett**, coordinator of the Adaptive Computer Lab, are in charge of the \$80,000 federal project. Besides analyzing the needs of the four campuses, Murphy and Corbett will also help install the computers. They will conduct training sessions from July 27th to August 7th on the campus for staff from the four community colleges.