DURHAM — J. Bonnie Newman, a former interim president of the University of New Hampshire who served two U.S. presidents, will receive the Pettee Medal, the UNH Alumni Association’s most prestigious award, Friday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m. in Huddleston Hall. The ceremony is open to the public.

The Pettee Medal is given annually to a New Hampshire resident or former resident in recognition of their dedication and service to the state and the world.

Newman’s career has spanned the public, private, nonprofit and academic sectors. Her tenure at UNH included serving as assistant dean of students (1969-1972); dean of students (1972-1978); interim dean of the Whittemore School of Business and Economics (1998-1999) and interim president (2006 to 2007).

She also served as the executive dean at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government from 2000-2005.

Newman left academia in the 1980s to work in government and the private and nonprofit sectors. She was Sen. Judd Gregg’s chief of staff when he was a congressman and went on to work in the White House as associate director of presidential personnel and then as assistant secretary of commerce for economic development under President Ronald Reagan, and as assistant to the president for management and administration during the George H.W. Bush administration.

Founder and former owner of Coastal Broadcasting Corporation, licensee of WZEA-FM radio, Newman was president of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire and president and CEO of The New England Council, the nation’s oldest regional business association.

She currently serves as a director of the Lumina Foundation for Education, Fairpoint Communications, Gilbane, Inc., Global Relief Technologies, Exeter Trust Company, and Exeter Hospital; is former chairman of the United States Naval Academy Board of Visitors and former vice chair of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Other past appointments include the President's Export Council and the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. She is a former director of Markem Corporation, NYNEX Telecommunications, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, Sallie Mae Corporation, New Hampshire Public Television, the New Hampshire Industrial Development Authority, and Public Service of New Hampshire.

Newman previously has been recognized by UNH with the Profile of Service Award (1988), Granite State Award (1996), and Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree (2007).

The Charles Holmes Pettee Medal was established by the UNH Alumni Association in 1940 to recognize individuals who exhibit the rare devotion to service expressed by the life of Pettee, who served the university for 62 years as professor and dean until his death in 1938.