UWF CAMPUS ALCOHOL COALITION PARTNERS WITH TOWN HALL MEETING IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING

PENSACOLA – The University of West Florida Alcohol Coalition is partnering with the Northwest Florida Prevention Coalition and the Community Drug and Alcohol Council (CDAC) to prevent underage drinking in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Known collectively as the Partnership for Community Prevention, the groups are sponsoring a “Town Hall Meeting in Northwest Florida to Prevent Underage Drinking” Sept. 14 beginning with a continental breakfast/networking period at 8 a.m. at the Sanders Beach Community Center, 913 I Street, Pensacola.

The goals of the Town Hall Meeting are to provide education about alcohol abuse, connect community agencies and mobilize alcohol abuse prevention efforts, according to Mica Hughes-Harrell, assistant director of Health Promotion Services with Counseling and Wellness Services at UWF. While this event focuses on community involvement and leadership, future meetings will target other components of the initiative, such as policy-makers, service-providers, parents and children and others.

Dr. Thomas Workman, associate professor, Baylor College of Medicine, where he is also assistant director of the Center of Collaborative and Interactive Technologies, will deliver the keynote address. He will discuss environmental management focusing on community policy work shown to make a difference in preventing underage and high-risk drinking.

For the past 10 years, Workman has focused on coalition-based environmental substance abuse prevention in campus communities. He is a fellow with the U.S. Department of Education’s Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug and Violence Prevention.

The Town Hall Meeting will begin with remarks from UWF President Judith Bense, then Workman will speak, followed by a question-and-answer session with representatives by the participating organizations and other stakeholders, moderated by Bob Grip, anchor on WALA Fox-10 News.

Local stakeholders invited to attend include law enforcement, government leaders, educators and school board members and advocates for programs such as Project Graduation.

To attend the free event, please R.S.V.P by Sept. 7 by e-mailing townhallpcola@gmail.com. Seating is limited.

For more information about the Town Hall Meeting, contact Mica Hughes-Harrell at (850) 474-2420 or e-mail mharrell@uwf.edu.