



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2009

Contact: David Byrnes
(916) 326-3606

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS \$1.5 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR PHYSICIANS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

SACRAMENTO – The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's (OSHPD) Health Professions Education Foundation (Foundation) awarded approximately \$1.5 million in loan repayment grants to 16 physicians under the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (STLRP). The awards recognize the commitment of physicians who are willing to provide direct patient care in underserved areas of California.

"The Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program is part of a successful strategy in encouraging a diverse and highly qualified pool of healthcare professionals to practice in underserved areas of California," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle.

The STLRP was created to increase accessibility to healthcare services in California, while encouraging healthcare professionals to consider long-term options for service in underserved areas. By providing a financial incentive to repay educational debt, the Health Profession Education Foundation hopes to retain these physicians in the communities where they serve during their contractual obligation. Through the continuing efforts of Assemblymember Hector de la Torre, the STLRP now receives a more stable funding base by receiving funds through physician licensure renewal fees.

Since its inception in 2003, the Foundation has encouraged physicians to practice in medically underserved areas of California by authorizing repayment of their educational loans. Physicians can receive up to \$105,000 in exchange for their service in a designated underserved area for a minimum of three years. Since 2003, the Foundation has awarded more than \$10 million to 118 individuals.

Established in 1987, under the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, the Foundation is California's only non-profit foundation statutorily created to increase access to health providers in medically underserved areas and encourage persons from underrepresented communities to become health professionals. Supported by grants, donations, licensing fees, and special funds, the Foundation provides scholarships, loan repayments and programs to students and graduates who agree to practice in California's medically underserved communities.

For further information about the Foundation, please contact the staff directly at (916) 326-3640 or (800) 773-1669.

2009 Steven M. Thompson recipients:

Awardee	Employer Name	Resident County	Amount Awarded
Elizabeth Baca	Ravenswood Family Health Center	San Mateo	\$101,631.27
Kevin Herrick	Hazel Hawkins	San Benito	\$71,002.25
Jorge Rubal	Community Health Alliance of Pasadena	Los Angeles	\$101,631.27
Joy Brotherton	Harbor/UCLA Medical Center	Los Angeles	\$101,631.27
Kristin Kalmbacher	Bolinas Community Health Center	Marin	\$36,619.41
Kyoko Pena-Robles	Gardner Family Health Center	Santa Clara	\$101,631.27
B. Leonard Perkinson	Merced Faculty Associated Medical Group	Merced	\$101,631.27
Kira Williams	Augustus F. Hawkins	Los Angeles	\$101,631.27
Tracie Davis	Logan Heights Family Health Center	San Diego	\$83,181.32
Bradley Deal	Northern CA Youth Correctional Center	San Joaquin	\$101,631.27
Bahgi Keflezighi	Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Center & North Park Family Health Center	San Diego	\$99,648.78
Heather Nichols	Santa Paula West Medical Clinic	Ventura	\$101,631.27
David Pakter	SF Department of Public Health Community Clinics	San Francisco	\$101,631.27
Mona Patel	Alta Med. Services Corp.	Los Angeles	\$101,631.27
Minerva Perez-Lopez	Natividad Medical Center	Monterey	\$101,631.27
Jonathan Greenburg	Humboldt County Human and Health Services	Humboldt	\$101,631.27