



**HEALTH PROFESSIONS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**
Giving Golden Opportunities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2007

Contact: David Byrnes
916 324-9448
dbyrnes@oshpd.ca.gov

**STATE AWARDS \$1.2 MILLION IN GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO IMPROVE
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS**

SACRAMENTO – Herb Schultz, Senior Health Policy Advisor for Governor Schwarzenegger, provided the keynote address at a Los Angeles ceremony where the Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) awarded \$1.2 million in scholarships and loan repayment grants to 62 healthcare professional students and graduates who will provide direct patient care in underserved areas of California.

"Governor Schwarzenegger is committed to ensuring California has an adequate supply of healthcare providers so that high quality health care is accessible to all Californians," said HPEF Executive Director Maria Giuriato. "There is a consensus that these types of programs play a vital role in addressing current physician shortages related to distribution and diversity."

The awards recognize the achievements of 2006-2007 grantees from four of HPEF's scholarship and loan repayment programs, the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program, the Allied Healthcare Scholarship, Health Professions Education Scholarship, and Health Professions Loan Repayment Program.

"The Foundation strives to improve access to healthcare through scholarship and loan repayment grants designed to encourage health professional students and graduates to provide care in medically underserved areas," said HPEF Executive Director Maria Giuriato. "We work with economically disadvantaged and demographically underrepresented students to help them fulfill their dream of pursuing a career in the health professions."

The Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program, funded through private contributions, provides up to \$105,000 over a three-year period, and would have a service obligation of 3 years. The Allied Healthcare Scholarship is funded through contributions from Kaiser Permanente and offers awards up to \$3,000. The Health Professions Education Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs are funded by a grant from the Vitamin Cases Consumer Settlement Fund and provide awards up to \$10,000 for scholarships, or up to \$20,000 for loan repayments.

The Health Professions Education Foundation is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation administered through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP). The Foundation's mission is to improve access to healthcare in rural and urban underserved areas. Since 1990, HPEF has awarded more than \$16 million in

scholarships and loan repayments to approximately 2,300 healthcare professional students and graduates.

For further information about the Foundation, please contact them directly at (916) 324-6500 or (800) 773-1669.

Health Professions Scholarship 2006/07 recipients:

John Anderson – Milford
Nancy Batres – Porterville
Geraldine Mercedes Dodge – Davis
Mobashshera Jabeen – Harbor City
Mary Lawanson-Nichols – Castaic
Alisia Lee – Visalia
Phillip Myers – Visalia
Richard O'Bryan – Modesto
Angelica Perez – Sacramento
Priscilla Rodriguez – Madera
Lars Sather – Santa Rosa
Gail Watkins – West Point
Ryan Abelowitz – La Jolla
Marisol Balistreri – San Diego
Daniel Flores – Tulare
Graciela Hernandez – Oxnard
Isaac Kim – Alameda
Yolanda Mata – Fresno
Maria Polasek-Gulina – Rancho Cucamonga
Melissa Rodas – Clover City
Shelly Santoyo – Sanger
Hilengiwe Sibanda - Oceanside
Jodey Tomic - Dublin

Health Professions Loan Repayment Program 2006/07 recipients:

Juliana Almanza – Long Beach
Amy Banuelos – Irvine
Marysol Boyles - Porterville
Ana Corona – Montebello
Michelle Karpin – San Luis Obispo
Jennifer Sanchez – Chico
Kenya Titley-Singleton – Highland
Linda Valles – Chico
Robert Vega – West Covina
Jennifer Backer – Huntington Beach
Azucena Barocio – Richmond
Ginger Bhakti – McKinleyville
Lucy Cuevas-Loya – Lynwood

Pamela Hassler – Grass Valley
Talynua Jones – Sacramento
Colleen McEvoy – San Francisco
Patricia McPhee – Nevada City
Theresa Saracho – Lancaster
Lam Vu – Lancaster
Norma Young - Yreka

Allied Healthcare Scholarship 2006/2007 recipients:

Alejandro Flores – Santa Maria
Michelle Nunex – Camarillo
Jennifer Udeochu – Carson
Jody Crane - Redlands
Nicci Gorham – Pasadena
Adan Maldonado – El Centro
Gilbert Marquez – Anaheim
Olivia Oliveira – Hanford
Yara Portal – Anaheim
Casey Truax – Seal Beach

Steven M. Thompson recipients:

Murat Akalin MD, MPH – Mammoth Lakes - \$90,000.00 – Sierra Park Family
Medicine/Mammoth Hospital
Luis Artavia MD – Pasadena - \$48,000.00 – Community Health Alliance of Pasadena
(CHAP)
Kristin Brownell MD, MPH – San Diego - \$90,000.00 – National City Family Clinic
Mark Colon MD – Tustin - \$90,000.00 – Children’s Hospital of Orange County Clinic at
Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana
Diana Garcia MD – Ventura - \$67,000.00 – Las Islas Family Medical Group
Derek Gong MD – Santa Rosa - \$90,000.00 – Russian River Health Center
Matthew Guest MD – San Diego - \$90,000.00 – Neighborhood Health Care – El Cajon
Elisha Hicks MD – Los Angeles – \$90,000.00 – Northeast Valley Health Corporation –
Canoga Park
Sonny Lee MD – Redlands - \$90,000.00 – Loma Linda University Health Care Pediatric
& Adult Medicine Clinic
Sarah Morgan MD – Clovis - \$90,000.00 - Apollo Residential Facility
Robert Reina MD – Standard - \$77,000.00 – Sonora Indian Health Clinic
Rebecca Tomlinson – MD – Laguna Beach - \$77,000.00 – Clinica Medica de Ella