



Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Transforming Communities & Higher Education

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION RESEARCH AND SERVICE RECEIVES 9TH ANNUAL CCPH AWARD

May 15, 2010 – Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is delighted to announce the **Center for Community Health Education Research and Service (CCHERS) in Boston, MA, USA** as the recipient of the 9th Annual CCPH Award. The award, presented during the closing session of CCPH's 11th conference in Portland, Oregon, USA, recognizes exemplary partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions that build on each other's strengths to improve higher education, civic engagement, and the overall health of communities. The intent of the award is to highlight the power and potential of community-campus partnerships as a strategy for social justice. It honors partnerships that are striving to achieve the systems and policy changes needed to overcome the root causes of health, social and economic inequalities.

Reviewers had the challenging task of recommending an award recipient from CCPH's most competitive pool of nominations since the award was launched in 2002. CCHERS, with its 20-year record of accomplishment, emerged as the clear front-runner. In the words of one reviewer, "This partnership is advancing health equity by ensuring a balance of power between community-based voices and organizations and those of health institutions in a city with possibly the highest concentration of universities and hospitals in the country."

CCHERS is a community-academic partnership between universities, hospitals, community health centers, the City health department and the communities they serve. Established in 1991 as part of the Kellogg Foundation Initiative, Community Partnerships in Health Professions Education, today CCHERS is an incorporated, non-profit, self-sustaining organization with a Board of Directors representative of the partner organizations and communities. Through its network of "academic community health centers" CCHERS provides community based education of students from a range of health disciplines, including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, physical therapy and public health based on a service learning model in clinical placements, internships, and Co-ops. CCHERS also brokers and leads community based research projects focused on racial and ethnic health disparities in communities and underserved populations through partnerships with researchers. Grounded in the community health center movement, CCHERS builds on the community health values and founding principles so that "community" is a core value of the organization.

In announcing this year's award recipient, CCPH Board Chair Emeritus Bobby Gottlieb noted that "CCHERS has transformed the landscape of community-academic partnerships in Boston, a city that is overfilled with powerful academic institutions and teaching hospitals whose missions are to promote research and seek new knowledge but are not fundamentally accountable to community values and concerns. CCHERS has been a flagship, a voice in changing the power dynamic. CCHERS has earned the credibility to be a player among powerful interests locally, nationally and internationally, and it has done this because it has built its foundation on engaged, accountable work with Boston's communities. This is not a 'by-the way' – it is its stock and trade – and it is from there that CCHERS' gets its strength and voice."

In his acceptance remarks, CCHERS Executive Director Elmer Freeman highlighted the pivotal role that CCPH played when he stepped into the role of CCHERS Executive Director in 1997 after 16 years of directing a community health center. "If I had not found CCPH there was no way I would have survived in this job, because of finding like-minded people who were committed to social justice and transforming institutions in communities, which is clearly central to CCPH. This is my organization...it is a real honor and pleasure for me to accept the CCPH award on behalf of CCHERS."

In addition to Elmer, accepting the award on behalf of CCHERS were Beverly Russell, CCHERS Director of

Research and Evaluation; Thomas Kieffer, CCHERS Board Member, Executive Director of the Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and Board Chair of CCHERS' high school, newly named the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers; and CCHERS partners Alex Pirie, Immigrant Service Providers, Somerville Community Corporation; Trinidad Tellez, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center; and Suzanne Cashman, University of Massachusetts Medical School. *See next page for photo.*

Also announced at the conference were three honorable mentions:

1. **Community University Partnership Programme (Cupp), Brighton, England** – represented at the conference by Angie Hart, Academic Director, Cupp, University of Brighton and Paul Bramwell, Working Together Project, Brighton, UK
2. **University Neighborhood Partners (UNP), Salt Lake City, UT, USA** – represented at the conference by Rosey Hunter, Special Assistant to the President for Campus Community Partnerships, University of Utah and Director, University Neighborhood Partners; andCarolynn Hoskins, University Neighborhood Partners Advisory Board Co-Chair and Resident Partner, Salt Lake City, UT, USA
3. **Bronx Youth as Partners (BYAP), Bronx, NY, USA**

For more information about the 2010 award winner and honorable mentions, including audio and photos from the CCPH conference, visit <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/awardsrecipients.html#2010>.

For more information about CCHERS, visit <http://www.cchers.org> or email CCHERS Executive Director Elmer Freeman at E.Freeman@neu.edu

Nomination guidelines for the 2011 CCPH Award will be released in Fall 2010 and posted online at <http://www.ccpb.info>. Partnerships may nominate themselves and need not be members of CCPH. Nominations in English are accepted from any country or nation.

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Community-Campus Partnerships for Health promotes health (broadly defined) through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. A non-profit organization founded in 1996, CCPH's strategic goals are to:

- Combine the knowledge, wisdom and experience in communities and in academic institutions to solve major health, social and economic challenges
- Build the capacity of communities and higher educational institutions to engage each other in authentic partnerships
- Support communities in their relationships and work with academic partners
- Recognize and reward faculty for community engagement and community-engaged scholarship
- Develop partnerships that balance power and share resources equitably among partners
- Ensure that community-driven social change is central to service-learning and community-based participatory research

At a grass-roots level, our members are advancing these goals in their work on a daily basis. Our growing network of over 1,800 communities and campuses are collaborating to promote health through service-learning, community-based participatory research and other partnerships. What ties CCPH members together is our commitment to social justice and our passion for the power of partnerships to transform communities and academe. We believe that only by combining the knowledge, wisdom and experience in communities and in academic institutions will we solve the major health, social and economic challenges facing our society.

At an organizational level, CCPH advances our mission through knowledge exchange, training and technical assistance, research and evaluation, policy development and advocacy, and coalition-building. Learn more about CCPH at <http://www.ccpb.info>



The Center for Community Health Education Research and Service (CCHERS) in Boston, MA, USA receives the 2010 CCPH Annual Award.

From left to right: Alex Pirie, Immigrant Service Providers, Somerville Community Corporation; Thomas Kieffer, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and CCHERS Board Member; Beverly Russell, CCHERS; Elmer Freeman, CCHERS; Bobby Gottlieb, CCPH board member presenting the award; Trinidad Tellez, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center; Suzanne Cashman, University of Massachusetts Medical School