



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Announces New Executive Director & Home *Proven Leader Brings Vision and Passion to New Role*

The Board of Directors of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is pleased to announce that Cheryl A. Maurana, PhD, Senior Associate Dean for Public and Community Health and Professor of Population Health at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, will become CCPH's next Executive Director, effective August 1, 2008. CCPH will also begin operating out of its new organizational home at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) at that time under Cheryl's leadership.

In making the announcement, CCPH Board Chair Chuck Conner noted, "Over the past ten years, CCPH has become a leading source of inspiration, information, professional development and advocacy for promoting health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. As we enter our second decade of leadership in the field, we sought an executive director and an organizational home to partner with us in building on our strengths in forward-thinking and innovative ways. We are delighted to announce today that we have found these and more in Cheryl Maurana and the Medical College of Wisconsin." The announcement concludes an extensive search process led by the board that began when founding CCPH executive director Sarena D. Seifer announced a year ago her decision to step down.

Cheryl's involvement in CCPH dates back to the very start of the organization, having served as founding chair of the CCPH board. She has received national recognition for her work in building community-academic partnerships to improve health. Within two years of arriving at MCW in 1995, she founded its Center for Healthy Communities and has since built many partnerships for improving health in the Milwaukee community and the state of Wisconsin. As Senior Associate Dean for Public and Community Health, Cheryl has expanded MCW's community efforts, fostering collaboration among existing centers focused on community and public health, and facilitating partnerships, both urban and rural. Cheryl has also played a leadership role in the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Program, a statewide community-academic partnership, research and education initiative, with a specific focus on the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program. This initiative was funded by the \$300 million dollar endowment from the conversion of Blue Cross/Blue Shield United of Wisconsin to for-profit status. Cheryl previously served as Associate Dean for Community Health at Wright State University School of Medicine where she founded the University's Center for Healthy Communities. Under her direction, that interdisciplinary center was selected as one of 20 national models by the U.S. Public Health Service's Health Resources and Services Administration. Before Wright State, she was a faculty member at Purdue University, where she directed the Social Research Institute. Cheryl received her PhD from Purdue University and completed a four-year U.S. Public Health Service Fellowship in health services research. She received her undergraduate degree from Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, where she recently received the Distinguished Alumnae Award.

In accepting the position, Cheryl noted her strong commitment to CCPH and its ability to serve as a force for change. "Serving as CCPH's Executive Director is a logical extension of my work and my personal commitment to social justice. I have seen the power of partnerships first-hand and have consistently advocated for the extraordinary strengths that communities and institutions bring to the table. The anonymous quote I

shared in my speech at the first CCPH conference ten years ago remains true today: ‘There are three kinds of groups: those that make things happen, those that wait for things to happen and those who wonder what happened. We are the group that makes things happen.’ I look forward to strengthening CCPH’s role as a visionary organization while preserving its core values, always pushing the envelope of innovation and challenging the status quo.”

In MCW, CCPH has found a supportive organizational home that shares its commitment to improving the health of communities through community-campus partnerships. Notable for identifying community engagement as one of its four core missions (along with education, discovery and patient care) and receiving the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Award for Outstanding Community Service, MCW offers significant strengths as the home for CCPH. These include the enthusiastic support of senior leadership and a critical mass of dedicated faculty, staff, students and community partners. The Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program alone has funded 102 projects for \$23.5 million dollars in its first four years.

Between now and August 1, the CCPH board and staff will be transitioning the CCPH headquarters from the University of Washington to MCW. The day-to-day work of CCPH is expected to continue as usual throughout the transition period. Plans are already underway to hold the next CCPH conference in Milwaukee from April 29 – May 2, 2009.

For more information, contact Piper McGinley at ccphrfp@u.washington.edu or Alicia Witten at awitten@mcw.edu.

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Community-Campus Partnerships for Health is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes health (broadly defined) through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. 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 us 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. CCPH advances our mission through information dissemination, training and technical assistance, research and evaluation, policy development and advocacy, and coalition-building. Learn more about CCPH at www.ccph.info