ACHIEVING THE PROMISE OF AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY-HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS:
A COMMUNITY PARTNER SUMMIT
April 24-26, 2006 – Wingspread Conference Center, Racine, Wisconsin

Background/Purpose

Partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions as a strategy for social change are gaining recognition and momentum. Despite being formed with the best of intentions, however, authentic partnerships are very difficult to achieve. While academic partners have extensively documented their experiences and lessons learned, the voices of community partners are largely missing. We believe that if true partnerships are to be achieved, community partners must harness their own experiences, lessons learned, and collective wisdom into a national, organized effort to address this issue.

With the guidance of a planning committee composed of community leaders from around the nation, a group of organizations are working together to convene a national Community Partner Summit in 2006 (see page 2 for a list of committee members and organizations). The overall purpose of the Community Partner Summit is to advance authentic community-higher education partnerships by mobilizing a network of experienced community partners.

Summit Agenda

The Summit agenda will emphasize dialogue around lessons learned/case studies that will generate concrete actions and strategies that community partners can take individually and collectively to advance authentic partnerships. Participants will actively engage with one another through interactive exercises, discussions, and presentations that will lay the groundwork for the following anticipated outcomes:

- A declaration/statement from the perspectives of community partners about the key ingredients and benefits of authentic partnerships
- A set of recommendations from the perspectives of community partners
- A set of stories and case studies of partnership practices – what has worked, as well as what has not worked
- A set of specific “next steps” that participants will commit to individually and as a group
- The formation of some sort of national network of community partners that will provide an ongoing vehicle for sharing information and lessons learned, advancing summit recommendations, and serving as an organized voice for community partners around issues of community-campus partnerships.

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Convening Organization
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)

Co-sponsoring Organizations
WK Kellogg Foundation
Atlantic Philanthropies
Johnson Foundation

Supporting Organizations
Community-Based Public Health Caucus of APHA
National Community-Based Organization Network
National Community Committee of the CDC Prevention Research Centers Program

Community Summit Planning Committee
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Elmer Freeman, Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc., Boston, MA
Ella Greene-Moton, Flint Odyssey House, Inc. Health Awareness Center, Flint, MI
Yvonne Lewis, Faith Access to Community Economic Development, Flint, MI
Gerry Roll, Hazard Perry County Community Ministries, Inc., Hazard, KY
Monte Roulier, Community Initiatives, LLC, Columbia, MO
Lucille Webb, Strengthening the Black Family, Inc., Raleigh, NC
Vickie Ybarra, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Yakima, WA

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