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**Partnership Between University of Pennsylvania and Decatur Community Association
Receives Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Annual Award**

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is delighted to announce the partnership between the University of Pennsylvania and the Decatur Community Association as the recipient of the 7th annual CCPH Award. The award, announced May 4th at the 3rd Community-University Exposition in Victoria, BC Canada, highlights the power and potential of partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions as a strategy for social justice. The award recognizes partnerships that are striving to achieve the systems and policy changes needed to overcome the root causes of health, social and economic inequalities. Also announced were 3 partnerships that received honorable mentions. Selected from a competitive pool of nominations that were assessed by community- and institution-based reviewers, they demonstrate the diverse approaches and outcomes that community-campus partnerships can achieve.

The award-winning partnership began in 2002 when Hong Zhang, a University of Pennsylvania resident working in Parkersburg, West Virginia (WV) and Edward Emmett, a professor of occupational medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, learned that C8 was contaminating water of the Little Hocking Water Association (LHWA) in Southeastern Ohio. The C8, a chemical not found in nature, came from a DuPont production facility in nearby WV. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has declared C8 a probable human carcinogen that may delay childhood development. Concern in the LHWA about effects of C8 was heightened by information disparities between the community, regulators and industry. In response, the University, local community, and local physician Dr. Zhang formed an Environmental Justice Partnership that obtained funding for a community-based participatory research study that found that C8 levels in residents were far above normal, and highest in children and the elderly. The major source of C8 was residential drinking water. On the day of the community meeting to report detailed results, DuPont announced it would supply free bottled water to LHWA water users. 78% of eligible households accepted this offer. In 2006, the partnership performed a follow-up study of 65% of the original participants. Over 90% had made some change in their water supply, and C8 levels had fallen an average of 25%.

“The partnership employed an innovative method of disseminating results in the community,” noted CCPH Executive Director Sarena D. Seifer in presenting the award. “In what they have termed the Community First Communication Model, study findings are released first to study participants and then to the broader community, instead of publishing study results in scientific journals and hoping the results trickle down to the community.” The resulting community ownership of the results altered the balance of power within the community, and helped lead to the voluntary decision of the chemical facility to provide free bottled water to those served by the water supply.

Accepting the award on behalf of the partnership were Edward Emmett from the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Ellen Mumma from the Decatur Community Association. Dr. Emmett observed, “We believe that the success of this model—in empowering the community, reducing information disparities and community distrust, and promoting collaboration—will be sustained long past the effects of this particular study.” Ms. Mumma noted, “The results of the study and our partnership have been powerful in allowing the community to move on to other things. The way in which we approach any future issues has been transformed. Rather than responding as a victimized, powerless community, we will act instead as a cohesive, empowered, collaborative community.”

Honorable Mention: The Navajo Uranium Miner Oral History and Photography Project

The main mission of the Navajo Uranium Miner Oral History and Photography Project has been to share the stories, experiences, and history of uranium mining and its health effects with the world and to have it archived for posterity. By educating a broad sector of the public, the project sought to contribute to campaigns that aimed to remedy or, short of that, at least redress historical injustices. The project is a community-university collaboration that has collected primarily qualitative data (oral histories) that have been used in a self-published booklet, a full academic volume, an exhibit and a video and that participated in 2007 in congressional testimony on the issue. The universities involved are Tufts University School of Medicine and the Dine' College and the community is comprised of a pool of individuals, community organizations, and tribal agencies within the Navajo Nation. The project has spanned over 12 years with continuity through funded and unfunded periods. The project has employed a true community-based participatory research approach with community members involved in all aspects of the research. The participation of the individuals and community organizations and their outreach to miners affected by uranium mining in the community created a unique community building process and an enriching social action process generating in-depth discussion, conversations on uranium mining and health within the collaborative circles and outside, in turn it became a wider campaign and awareness project. Gathering oral histories of the miners as well as documenting the visual images was an effective tool that aided the process of bridging the gap between the affected and not affected, in sharing and in documenting this painful history to and for the new generation. The data has been employed for both academic scholarship (there is a long list of peer reviewed publications) and for education and advocacy by the community. Key successes of the project include distribution of 5,500 copies of the 64-page booklet, the majority for free, to Navajo communities and publication, in 2006, of an academic volume co-edited by university and community partners that was endorsed by the president of the Navajo Nation. The success of the partnership is attributed to mutual respect, flexibility, willingness to work hard, and a shared commitment to the issue.

Honorable Mention: LEAP BC (Literacy, Education, Activity and Play – British Columbia)

The LEAP BC community-campus collaboration represents a core partnership between 2010 Legacies Now and the University of Victoria Institute of Physical Activity and Health Research and community partnerships formed with government, non-government and stakeholder agencies at multiple levels (local to provincial). The mission of the partnership is to increase physical activity, literacy and healthy eating in the settings where children in their early years (0-5) live, learn and play by providing resources, training and ongoing support. A strong focus on bridging inequalities in children's early learning experiences places social justice at the core of the partnership. Together the partnership has been able to leverage funding, enhance provincial and local capacity through partnership building, networking and training and has produced a set of user friendly, culturally and age appropriate resources for families and early learning practitioners. The partnership and the strategies they have pursued with other key partners will have lasting benefit for the children and families of British Columbia. Enhancing early child development can have far reaching impact on a child's future.

Honorable Mention: Score 1 for Health

Now in its fifteenth year, Score 1 for Health is a health promotion and disease prevention program for elementary-aged children. Since the initial health care screen conducted in 1993 of 750 children, Score One has grown to provide healthcare screens and physician referrals each year for over 12,000 children in grades kindergarten to 5th grade. The partnership spans the entire Kansas City Metropolitan Area, including schools in both Kansas and Missouri. The program focuses on schools where children are more likely to be at high risk for illness and decreased health care access, based on the level of the school's participation in the federal school lunch program. Health screenings are conducted by professional medical, nursing, dental and other allied health students under the direction of clinical faculty from academic medical, dental and nursing centers. Health promotion and disease prevention activities are also conducted. When abnormal physical findings are noted, children may be referred immediately to a health care provider, or they may be re-screened. Score 1 staff track referrals and assure that students are seen by a health care provider whenever possible. The program provides clinical training for medical, nursing, dental, and other allied health students that is based on the need for community services that extend beyond practitioner offices, to providing future health care providers with a strong sense of community and the precepts of community health. The experience is interdisciplinary, emphasizing the importance of health care teams in the delivery of high quality health care to the underserved.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health promotes health (broadly defined) through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. CCPH is a growing network of over 1,800 communities and campuses throughout Canada, the United States and increasingly the world that are collaborating to promote health through service-learning, community-based participatory research, broad-based coalitions and other partnership strategies. What ties CCPH members together is their commitment to social justice and passion for the power of partnerships to transform communities and academe. Only by combining the knowledge, wisdom and experience in communities and in academic institutions can we solve the health, social and economic challenges facing our society.

Nomination guidelines for the 2009 CCPH Award will be posted online at www.ccph.info in Fall 2008. Partnerships may nominate themselves and need not be members of CCPH. Nominations are accepted from any country or nation. The 2009 award will be presented at CCPH's 11th Conference, April 29 – May 2, 2009 in Milwaukee, WI USA.