



**For Immediate Release – February 17, 2006**

**12 Schools and Graduate Programs of Public Health Selected for Engaged Institutions Initiative Focused on Eliminating Health Disparities**

Despite major advances in health care and health status in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, disparities persist between whites and people of color – creating one of the most pressing social justice issues facing America today. Not only are most racial and ethnic groups less healthy, but they also tend to have shorter life expectancies, higher rates of infant mortality and chronic diseases, worse outcomes once diagnosed with illnesses, and less access to health care than their white counterparts. Racial and ethnic health disparities persist even when socio-economic status and insurance coverage are taken into account, due to a complex combination of factors. Eliminating these disparities will require collaborative solutions that bring communities and institutions together as partners and build upon the assets, strengths, and capacities of each. Schools and graduate programs of public health – with their roles in educating public health professionals, conducting public health research and applying knowledge to solve public health problems – have a unique and important role to play. **We are pleased to announce today that 12 schools and graduate programs of public health are taking on the challenge of becoming engaged institutions focused on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities as participants in the Engaged Institutions Initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.**

One year ago, a seminar sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to celebrate its 75th anniversary called upon schools and graduate programs of public health to spearhead efforts to transform all colleges and universities into engaged institutions that are working to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. The Foundation defines engaged institutions as “institutions that invest in lasting relationships with communities...these relationships influence, shape, and promote the success of both the institution and the community.” In supporting the **Engaged Institutions Initiative**, the Foundation seeks to catalyze sustained efforts by schools and graduate programs of public health to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in partnership with communities.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) will work collaboratively and intensively with teams from 12 schools and graduate programs of public health as they develop and implement strategic action plans to become fully engaged institutions focused on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. Team members include academic administrators, faculty, staff, students and community partners who have made a commitment to collective action. Selected from among 26 applicants, they provided evidence of commitment and participation from institutional and community leaders, made a clear and compelling case for their readiness to invest in authentic community-campus partnerships, and demonstrated the ability to engage other parts of their campuses in the effort. Consultation will be provided by members of the CCPH Consultancy Network, the organization’s training and technical assistance arm. The initiative will also sponsor teleconferences, identify promising practices and produce resource materials.

For more information, please contact CCPH Executive Director Sarena Seifer at [sarena@u.washington.edu](mailto:sarena@u.washington.edu) or 206-616-4305. Initiative announcements and updates will be posted on the CCPH website at [www.ccph.info](http://www.ccph.info)

To receive e-mail announcements and updates on the initiative – along with other resources to support engaged institutions that are focused on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities – subscribe to the free Kellogg 75th Anniversary listserv at <https://mailman1.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/kellogg75>

## **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

In alphabetical order by state:

- Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR
- Master of Public Health Program in Community Health Education, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- University of South Florida College of Public Health, Tampa, FL
- Master of Public Health Program, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI
- Morgan State University School of Public Health and Policy, Baltimore, MD
- Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, MA
- Master of Public Health Program, University of Nebraska Medical Center and University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE
- University of North Carolina School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
- Oregon Master of Public Health Program, a consortium among Portland State University in Portland, Oregon Health and Science University in Portland and Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR
- Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- Master of Public Health Program and Center on Health Disparities, School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

## **ABOUT COMMUNITY-CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH**

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes health (broadly defined) through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. Founded in 1996, CCPH is a growing network of over 1,000 communities and campuses that are collaborating to promote health through service-learning, community-based participatory research, broad-based coalitions and other community-academic partnership strategies. CCPH advances its mission by disseminating information, providing training and technical assistance, conducting research and evaluations, facilitating policy and systems change, and building coalitions. Learn more about CCPH at [www.ccph.info](http://www.ccph.info).

CCPH supports the development of authentic partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions that are characterized by the 9 Principles of Good Community-Campus Partnerships: (1) Partners have agreed upon mission, values, goals and measurable outcomes for the partnership, (2) The relationship between partners is characterized by mutual trust, respect, genuineness and commitment, (3) The partnership builds upon identified strengths and assets, but also addresses areas that need improvement, (4) The partnership balances the power among partners and enables resources among partners to be shared, (5) There is clear, open and accessible communication between partners, making it an on-going priority to listen to each need, develop a common language, and validate/clarify the meaning of terms, (6) Roles, norms, and processes for the partnership are established with the input and agreement of all partners, (7) There is feedback to, among and from all stakeholders in the partnership, with the goal of continuously improving the partnership and its outcomes, (8) Partners share the credit for the partnership's accomplishments, and (9) Partnerships take time to develop and evolve over time.

## **ABOUT THE W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION**

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations.” To achieve the greatest impact, the Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas. These include: health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and volunteerism. Within these areas, attention is given to exploring learning opportunities in leadership; information and communication technology; capitalizing on diversity; and social and economic community development. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Learn more about the Foundation at [www.wkcf.org](http://www.wkcf.org)