

Subject: Call for Site Visits: Overcoming Health Disparities Conference

Dear Colleague:

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health and The Network: Towards Unity for Health will be holding a joint international conference in Atlanta, Georgia October 6-10, 2004. This conference will replace each organization's individual annual conference. The theme of the event is "Overcoming Health Disparities: Global Experiences from Partnerships between Communities, Health Services and Health Professional Schools." Conference information and registration materials are available at: <http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/>

Both CCPH and The Network: TUFH agree that one of the most important elements of the conference is the integration of site visits to community-based agencies working with Atlanta, Georgia area health professional schools. These may include partnerships developed around research, education (i.e., training), health services, and community/economic development. These visits give hosting organizations exposure to colleagues from across the nation and even the world. These visits also give conference participants the opportunity to interact with students, community leaders, and faculty engaged in partnerships to improve community health.

We are currently recruiting organizations in the Atlanta area to host these site visits on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> starting between 9:30 am-10:00 am and lasting until 12:30 pm-1:00 pm. We would also like to include some site visits where conference participants can take part in a service activity during the site visit. As a token of our appreciation, all site visit host organizations will receive one complimentary registration to attend the full conference.

The Site Visit Application (downloadable) provides more detailed information about the site visits and an application form. If you or any of your colleagues are interested in serving as a site visit host, please fill out the attached form and return to me by May 5, 2004. If you have any question about the site visits, or the conference in general, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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**Community Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)** is a nonprofit organization that fosters health-promoting partnerships between communities and educational institutions. Based at the University of Washington and founded in 1996, we seek to work collaboratively across sectors of higher education, communities and disciplines to achieve successful community-campus partnerships. Our mission is to foster partnerships between communities and educational institutions that build on each other's strengths and develop their roles as change agents for improving health professions education, civic responsibility and the overall health of communities.

**The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH)** is an international collaborative effort of some 185 institutions and organizations for health and health professions education and over 200 individuals. Member institutions and organizations are dedicated to optimally adjust their missions in education, service and research to the health needs of their client populations. The Network: TUFH was established in 1979 as the Network of Community-Oriented Educational Institutions for Health Sciences. In 1999, the organization changed its name to "The Network: Community Partnerships for Health through Innovative Education, Service, and Research", in recognition of the organization's broader role in health and greater diversity of stakeholders who need to collaborate for achieving better community health. In 2002, The Network amalgamated with World Health Organization's (WHO's) "Towards Unity for Health" project and consequently its name became: "The Network: Towards Unity for Health". Maastricht University in the Netherlands, WHO, national governments and major foundations, support The Network: TUFH. It is a non-governmental organization in official relationships with WHO.