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**Team Led by Providence Hospital Awarded \$4.9M Grant**

*Washington, District of Columbia – February 19, 2010* – A joint effort by Providence Hospital, the DC Department of Employment Services, and seven other organizations has been awarded a \$4.9 million federal grant aimed at training 500 people for employment in various health career professions and improving the District’s pool of highly qualified health care workers.

The grant comes from the nearly \$1 billion from federal stimulus legislation announced by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to increase the use of health information technology -- pushing a key component of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and job creation plans.

The money will go toward **Capital Health Careers**—a nine-member team of employers, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and service providers in partnership with Providence Hospital and the District to train 500 people in various health care professions to prepare them for the job market. After undergoing training, about 280 graduates are expected to be ready for the job market in the next three years. An additional 100 current health care workers will receive specialized training in health information technology.

Student recruitment will assist the unemployed, dislocated, and incumbent worker, especially those with low income and few skills. The project also features guidance and coaching to ensure students’ success in completion of coursework, in their job search, and in job retention once they are placed.

Partners in the Capital Health Careers program are the D.C. Workforce Investment Council, the Catholic University of America, the Community College of D.C. (part of the University of the District of Columbia), the D.C. Department of Disability Services, D.C. Primary Care Association, the nonprofit United Planning Organization and the Greater Washington Regional Alliance for Careers in Health. Serving as Project Director is Stephen Burns, Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services at Providence Hospital.

*Founded in 1861, Providence Hospital is the longest continuously operating hospital in the Nation's Capital. Its strengths in medicine, surgery, and diagnostics blend with its values and commitment to human dignity to serve the whole community. Providence is part of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system, setting the standard for quality, holistic care and access.*

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