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Loan Repayment Awarded to Health Professionals at Rhode Island's Community Health Centers

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Health Center Association today congratulated the licensed health professionals from Rhode Island's community health centers who will receive loan repayment from the Rhode Island Health Professional Loan Repayment Program administered by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

The awards assist eligible health professionals who make a two-year commitment to practice in medically underserved communities with repaying their student loans. Ten licensed healthcare professionals from community health centers were among the 13 health care professionals selected by the Department of Health as 2014 award recipients.

Erica Fullerton, CNM, a midwife with Thundermist Health Center stated "I am committed to providing care for women across their lifespan, and am so fortunate that I am able to do this for primarily underserved communities. The loan repayment will help me be able to continue this work for women in Woonsocket, and I thank the organizations that contributed to make this funding available."

Melissa Graswald, DMD, a dentist at WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care in North Kingston said, "I have dedicated the majority of my dental career to public health dentistry. I am grateful as a dentist at a community health center to the state loan repayment fund because the help paying my student loans allows me to continue to work for my patients."

The Rhode Island Health Center Association, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Foundation, Delta Dental of

Rhode Island and Landmark Hospital all contributed funds that enabled the state to make loan repayment awards.

Jane A. Hayward, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Health Center Association, said, “We appreciate the commitment of our funding partners to ensure low income communities have access to high-quality primary medical and dental care.”

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Foundation, and the Rhode Island Health Center Association contributed \$25,000 each to the fund. In addition Delta Dental of Rhode Island and Landmark Hospital each contributed \$50,000.

This year’s loan repayment recipients who provide health services at community health centers are:

Adebola Adelaiye, APRN/NP from Thundermist Health Center – Wakefield
LaShun Carroll, DDS from Thundermist Health Center – Wakefield
Danielle Cummings, DMD from Thundermist Health Center – West Warwick
Julie Dick, RN – Thundermist Health Center – West Warwick
Erica Fullerton, CNM from Thundermist Health Center – Woonsocket
Melissa Graswald, DMD from WellOne Primary Medical & Dental – North Kingstown
Milton Liu, DDS from Thundermist Health Center – West Warwick
Sharon Philbin, APRN/NP from Providence Community Health Centers
Jessica Salak, MD from Providence Community Health Centers
Marko Stevanovic, DMD from Thundermist Health Center – Woonsocket

About the Association: The Rhode Island Health Center Association works to support, sustain, and strengthen community health centers so they can provide high-quality, comprehensive health care.