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GW Receives \$1.75 Million Gift from RCHN CHF to Support Research and Scholarship on Community Health Centers and Medically Underserved Populations

WASHINGTON and NEW YORK (June 9, 2011) –The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services and RCHN Community Health Foundation announce a gift from the Foundation of \$1.75 million to the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy in the School’s Department of Health Policy. The gift builds on a 2007 gift from the Foundation to the Department to support research and scholarship related to community health centers and the populations they serve. The Geiger Gibson/ RCHN Research Collaborative, established with the initial gift, has conducted extensive policy research addressing the role of health centers in reaching medically underserved populations, the achievements of health centers in improving the quality of patient care and the health of medically underserved communities and populations, and the continued need for community-based care, providing essential evidence for the investment in community health centers as part of the Affordable Care Act and other national initiatives.

“The Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy has had a major impact on national policy which will strengthen community health centers, enabling them to provide care to those most in need. We are able to continue this important work, thanks to the continued support and partnership with the RCHN Community Health Foundation” said Dr. Lynn Goldman, Dean, GW School of Public Health and Health Services. The multi-faceted Collaborative also supports, in addition to policy research, Masters and doctoral training and graduate student research assistantships in policy issues; a Distinguished Visitors Program that brings leading figures in the health center movement to the school community; the annual Geiger Gibson Symposium in Health Policy and Emerging Leader Awards to young professionals recognized for their contributions to health center clinical, administrative, and policy advances; and collaboration on the CHroniCles Project, a multi-media website that tells the story of health centers and the communities they serve.

“The Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative was established with the goal of creating an academic home for the study of community health centers.” said Julio Bellber, President and CEO of the RCHN Community Health Foundation. “The Collaborative’s work has been instrumental in the policy arena, and has both complemented and helped drive the Foundation’s programs in support of health centers. We look forward to continuing this important partnership with GW.” Added Sara Rosenbaum, Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy and Chair of the Department of Health Policy, “This gift has added immeasurably to the Department’s growth, success, and respect, and we are so deeply grateful for the Foundation’s ongoing generosity.”

About the Geiger Gibson / RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative

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The Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy was established in 2004 and was named after human rights and health center pioneers Dr. H. Jack Geiger and Dr. Count Gibson, who founded the nation's first community health centers nearly 40 years ago in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and Boston, Massachusetts. The program focuses on the history and contributions of health centers and the major policy issues that affect health centers, their communities, and the patients that they serve. The Research Collaborative was established in 2007 with an initial gift from RCHN CHF.

Additional information about the Research Collaborative can be found online at www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/ggprogram or at rchnfoundation.org.

About the RCHN Community Health Foundation

The RCHN Community Health Foundation, founded in October 2005, is a not-for-profit foundation whose mission is to support community health centers through strategic investment, outreach, education, and cutting-edge health policy research. The only foundation in the country dedicated to community health centers, RCHN CHF builds on health centers' 40-year commitment to the provision of accessible, high quality, community-based healthcare services for underserved and medically vulnerable populations. For more information on RCHN CHF, visit www.rchnfoundation.org

About the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services:

Established in July 1997, the School of Public Health and Health Services brought together three longstanding university programs in the schools of medicine, business, and education that we have since expanded substantially. Today, more than 1,100 students from nearly every U.S. state and more than 40 nations pursue undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral-level degrees in public health. Our student body is one of the most ethnically diverse among the nation's private schools of public health. <http://sphhs.gwumc.edu/>