



*L-R: Governor Douglas with Denis Barton, director of VT Public Policy at Bi-State.*



*L-R: Tess Stack Kuenning, Bi-State's executive director, poses with Nancy Metz from Little Rivers Health Center.*



*Bi-State staff ready to serve VT-made ice cream at the Legislator's Reception. L-R: Michelle Parent, Heather Skeels, Kate Simmons, Kristen Bigelow-Talbert, Tess Stack Kuenning and Denis Barton.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 11, 2010

Contact: Susan Noon

Director of Marketing & Development

603-228-2830 x 44

[snoon@bistatepca.org](mailto:snoon@bistatepca.org)

## VT Legislator's Reception Draws Governor and Large Crowd

MONTPELIER, VT – Following a morning of testimony at the House Health Committee, Bi-State Primary Care Association (Bi-State) and its members hosted the VT Legislator's Reception in the State House cafeteria. Bi-State has a variety of members with a common purpose: improving access to healthcare for all Vermonters. Members are federally qualified health centers, free clinics, rural health clinics, and area health education centers. "Our member organizations play a variety of roles in support of access to health care. They collaborate at the state and local level to achieve the same end," said Denis Barton, director of VT Public Policy for Bi-State. "Over the course of the year over 120,000, or 1 in 5, Vermonters have been served by our members."

Bi-State is the only nonprofit recruitment and retention service in NH and VT working to bring dentists, physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to work in the state. Federally Qualified Health Centers, VT Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured, Community Health Centers, Area Health Education centers, and the primary care system in VT provide an integrated network of "safety net" providers, especially for the medically underserved.

Attended by more than fifty legislators and Governor James Douglas, the reception provided an opportunity for dozens of staff and Bi-State members to interact with public officials and legislators.

With offices in Concord, NH, and Montpelier, VT, Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations and policymakers, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that promote and sustain community-based, primary health care services.

###