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### Bi-State's Public Policy Director Receives National Recognition with Emerging Leader Award



WASHINGTON, DC – Bi-State Primary Care Association is pleased to announce that Vanessa Santarelli, Director of NH Public Policy, was selected by George Washington University's Geiger Gibson 2012 Emerging Leader Nomination Review Committee to receive the 2012 Emerging Leader Award. The award was established by the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy to highlight the accomplishments of an exceptional young leader who has demonstrated professional achievement and leadership qualities while assisting the Primary Care Association and/or Community Health Center in its mission to expand access to culturally competent health care services to underserved populations. Ms. Santarelli, a resident of Bedford, is one of six nationally recognized at the Geiger Gibson Symposium on March 24 in Washington, DC. Several thousand of her

colleagues from Primary Care Associations and Community Health Centers from across the country were in attendance as part of the National Association of Community Health Centers' 2012 Policy and Issues Forum.

"Vanessa demonstrates an incredible passion and commitment to her work, advocating successfully on behalf of the Community Health Centers and the quality of the primary care services they provide," said Tess Stack Kuenning, Executive Director of Bi-State Primary Care Association.

In support of her nomination for the Emerging Leader Award, Edward Shanshala II, CEO of Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. wrote, "Vanessa not only has an excellent command of the history and current state of Community Health Centers, she, as a life-long learner, continues to lead our policy efforts through an integration of the most current evidence-based knowledge into state policy recommendations."

"Vanessa has been one of the most effective advocates for Community Health Centers that we've ever had, representing us during a period of rapid ups and downs in state health policy, budget deficits, and changes in funding", said Ann Peters, CEO of Lamprey Health Care. Helen Taft, Executive Director of Families First Health and Support Center, adds, "Vanessa is extremely committed and works tirelessly to advocate for the Community Health Centers in New Hampshire with the Governor, Department of Health and Human Services, and the state legislature, businesses, and others to make the case for the importance of the safety-net for the uninsured."



Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association, serving Vermont and New Hampshire, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c) 3 charitable organization that promotes access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on underserved populations in New Hampshire and Vermont. With offices in New Hampshire and Vermont, Bi-State works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that provide and support community-based primary health care services in medically underserved areas.

Above: Vanessa Santarelli accepts the Emerging Leader Award from presenter Velma Hendershott, CEO, InterCare Community Health Network, Bangor, MI. Right: Dr. H. Jack Geiger, founder of the Community Health Center movement in the United States (3rd from L), joins in celebrating Vanessa Santarelli's (2nd from R) recognition, with (L-R) Ann Peters, David Reynolds, Tess Stack Kuenning, and Kevin Kelley in Washington, DC. ###