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SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

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**New Hampshire/Vermont
Health Primary Care Association Leader
Honored at National Conference**

Bethesda, M.D. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has presented Tess Stack Kuenning, Executive Director of Bi-State Primary Care Association, with the 2009 Norton Wilson State Regional Leadership Award. The award is a part of NACHC's annual Community Health Care Awards of Excellence program which recognizes outstanding men and women of the Community Health Center Movement. The award was established in 2001 to honor a staff member of a NACHC-chartered state or regional primary care association who exemplifies leadership excellence in the health care association arena.

"Tess Kuenning represents the very best of health center leadership," said Tom Van Coverden, President and CEO of NACHC. "America's Health Centers would not be what they are today without the state/regional primary care associations and the people in them who work tirelessly to expand access to the medically underserved and ensure that health centers have the resources and state support that are critical to fostering growth."

Tess Kuenning has served a variety of leadership roles at NACHC. She currently Chairs the Steering Committee for the State/Regional Primary Care Associations, which charts the legislative and policy goals for health centers and their state associations.

"My roles have been diverse—including work as a practitioner in maternal and child health as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, a nurse consultant and community and public health specialist for the U.S. Public Health Service, and in an executive role as the Director of Bi-State Primary Care Association, serving the needs of Vermont and New Hampshire," said Kuenning. "Each of these leadership roles has spurred and fulfilled my passion, interest and personal commitment to service and mission work and has provided me a unique perspective and an important role in advancing the health and well being of persons most at risk. I sincerely believe in the power and potential of people, taking action, leading and working to assure everyone has an equal right to access health care. It is a gift and blessing to work with organizations and people across the country, who are intensely dedicated, contribute to, and share in this vision."

The award to Kuenning was presented at the NACHC Community Health Institute (CHI) and Expo which convened in Chicago, IL, August 21-25th, 2009. The annual conference brings together nearly 2000 Community, Migrant and Homeless Health Center representatives from across the country to focus on a host of pressing health care policy issues—including health care reform and building a strong primary care foundation.

Bi-State Primary Care Association is a private, nonprofit organization acting as a voice for the medically underserved populations of Vermont and New Hampshire. Bi-State's 34 members include a broad range of organizations such as Community Health Centers, health care for the homeless programs, Rural Health Clinics, private and hospital-supported primary care practices, community action and family planning programs, and Area Health Education Centers.

Founded in 1970, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance and expand access to quality, community-responsive health care for America's medically underserved and uninsured. In serving its mission, NACHC represents the nation's network of over 1,200 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) which serve 18 million people through 7,000 sites located in all of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. For more information, please visit www.nachc.com.