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DANIEL HAWKINS TO RECEIVE SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS LEADERSHIP AWARD AT CONFERENCE



NEW HAMPSHIRE – APRIL 29, 2015 – In 2010, Senator Bernie Sanders and Bi-State Primary Care Association established the Senator Bernie Sanders Leadership Award for those special occasions when someone deserves recognition for making valuable, significant, and lasting contributions to the Community Health Center movement. The award has been presented only once before to Dr. H. Jack Geiger, founder of the first Community Health Center in the United States in 1965. On this 50th anniversary of the first Community Health Center, Bi-State is pleased to announce Daniel R. Hawkins, senior vice president for Public Policy and Research at the National Association of Community Health Centers, will be presented with the Senator Bernie Sanders Leadership Award at its 2015 Primary Care Conference on May 12 in Fairlee, Vermont. Hawkins will also co-present the keynote address on *The Future of Medicaid and its Impact on Community Health Centers* at the Primary Care Conference.

Since 1981, Dan Hawkins has conducted and guided federal and state health-related policy research and analysis at NACHC. He has provided strategic leadership in the areas of policy development and advocacy for the 1,200 Community Health Centers nationwide. During his tenure at NACHC, federal support for health centers has grown from \$350 million to \$5.1 billion annually, and the number of people served by health centers has grown from 5 million to more than 23 million. With \$11 billion in guaranteed directed funding under the Affordable Care Act of 2010, Health Centers expect to expand to serve at least 35 million people by 2019.

Hawkins is a former VISTA volunteer, director of a migrant and Community Health Center in Texas, and assistant to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Joseph Califano, Jr., during the Carter Administration. He has written extensively on health care issues and provided testimony before several Congressional Committees. Hawkins teaches health policy at The George Washington University and is often interviewed by major newspapers and broadcast networks. Hawkins is recognized as one of the most influential health policymakers in America.

Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Bi-State's annual Primary Care Conference features experts in health care policy and practice at the federal, state, and local level and attracts a large audience of primary care administrators, clinicians, and policymakers. For more information, please visit www.bistatepca.org.

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