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VERMONT AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS NETWORK TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



VERMONT – APRIL 29, 2015 – On May 12, the University of Vermont College of Medicine Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program will receive The Community Service Award from Bi-State Primary Care Association. This annual award “honors individuals whose volunteer efforts have made a

significant impact on the vulnerable populations of Vermont or New Hampshire.” Elizabeth Cote, director of the University of Vermont Area Health Education Office, will accept the award on behalf of the program during the Awards Ceremony Luncheon at the 2015 Primary Care Conference in Fairlee, Vermont.

The University of Vermont’s AHEC program is a network of academic and community partners working together to improve the distribution, diversity, supply, and quality of the health care workforce in Vermont. Established in 1996, the program has an office at the UVM College of Medicine and three regional centers. The program focuses on achieving a well-trained workforce to improve access to quality care, especially in rural and underserved areas. Its efforts include: pipeline programs in health careers awareness for youth; engagement of health professions students at UVM and residents at the UVM Medical Center; and recruitment and retention of the health care workforce in Vermont. The AHEC program brings educational and quality improvement programming to primary care practitioners and supports community health education. Many program participants dedicate their time to support programs like the Vermont State Educational Loan Repayment Program and the new Health Resources and Services Administration State Loan Repayment Program, two programs that are critical for recruiting and retaining providers. The AHEC team aims to increase access to primary care for all Vermonters, especially the most vulnerable populations.

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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