

Media Advisory

Amanda Barney (401) 946-7887 ext.111

THE CENTER FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS TELLS STUDENTS JOBS IN HEALTH CARE ARE “HOT”

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Ave, Warwick

Event: More than 100 students from the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center, the Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy, the Job Corps Academy and participants in the state’s Youth 411 System will attend the “Youth Workforce Diversity Conference,” a program aimed at educating students about the rewards of a career in health care. The industry offers well-paying, steady employment with ample opportunity for advancement. The average entry level wage for health care professionals exceeds \$25 per hour. Furthermore, recent studies by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training indicate 15,000 new jobs will be added to the sector by 2016.

Students will learn about the opportunities available in health care and steps they should take to make themselves viable candidates for future employment. Many positions require post-secondary education and appropriate high school-level classes must be taken to prepare students for entrance into college.

Speakers will include:

- Ruth Ricciarelli, executive director, The Center for Health Professions
- Kenneth Belcher, president and CEO of Roger Williams Medical Center and CharterCARE Health Partners and chair of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island board of trustees
- Darrick Tow, PTA, physical therapy assistant, St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island
- Yvonne Heredia, MSN, president and founder of the Rhode Island Black Nurses Association
- Ed Quinlan, president, Hospital Association of Rhode Island

The program is supported by the Governor’s Workforce Board.

Established in 1998, the Health Partnership Council (HPC), which operates under the auspices of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, is a coalition of healthcare providers, labor, healthcare professional organizations, postsecondary institutions, policy makers and other stakeholders. The Center for Health Professions was launched in 2007 by the Health Partnership Council to promote quality healthcare for individuals who live, work and seek care in Rhode Island by advancing workforce development initiatives designed to grow and enhance the state’s professional healthcare workforce.