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For more information contact:

Ebony Williams

503-227-5502

www.communityhealthpartnership.org

Community Health Partnership Names 2006 Genius Award Winners

Awards honor achievements and contributions to improving public health in Oregon

PORTLAND, OR – Although Community Health Partnership's 2006 award recipients, **Leda Garside**, **Susan Sanzi-Schaedel**, **Nancy Gummer** and **Michael Heumann** have different areas of expertise, they share a strong commitment and exemplary ability to improve the health of Oregon residents.

Community Health Partnership (CHP) sought nominees from throughout Oregon whose work has resulted in significant and lasting change in the field of public health. The Public Health Genius Award is intended to recognize and acknowledge those who demonstrate responsiveness to Oregon residents in need, and whose work is distinguished by creativity, risk taking and boldness toward forging permanent improvements in the health of the public. This year, **Leda Garside** and **Susan Sanzi-Schaedel** are the 2006 Genius recipients.

Through hands-on work with vineyard workers and collaboration with farmers and health care providers, **Leda Garside** has improved the delivery of health services to seasonal workers. As Clinical Nurse Manager of !Salud!, a health-based outreach program offered through Tuality Healthcare, Leda has taken health education and health services to vineyard workers and their families. The result, over a decade of work, has been improved health for seasonal workers and improved delivery of necessary services such as vaccinations and safety education including pesticide applicator training and certification. Through Leda's efforts, seasonal workers have better access to health care through community partnerships.

Over a 28 year career as the Director of School and Community Dental Health at Multnomah County Health Department, **Sue Sanzi-Schaedel** has been a tireless advocate for oral health and worked to provide quality oral health education and services for children and indigent adults. She has been instrumental in developing numerous programs that promote oral health such as school-based fluoride and dental sealant programs, and the provision of a dental van to provide dental care access to immigrant communities. Prior to recently retiring from the health department, Sue was a founding member of Oregon's Statewide Oral Health Coalition.

Nancy Gummer is recipient of the **2006 Merit Award**. Nancy, a Registered Dietician, has been instrumental in changing the way Good Shepherd Medical Center in Umatilla County prepares food for its patients and employees. In the process, Nancy has raised awareness in Eastern Oregon and in food services around the state concerning how to provide quality healthy food.

Michael Heumann is recipient of the **2006 Merit Award**. As an Epidemiologist with Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, at the Oregon Department of Human Services, Michael demonstrates an unfailing commitment to improving the environmental health of Oregonians. Over the past twenty years he has been involved in numerous difficult epidemiologic investigations and has advocated for protective policies and procedures to assure the public's health.

CHP will honor this year's recipients at the fifth annual award luncheon in Portland on October 6, 2006. The event is open to the public. To purchase tickets for the awards luncheon or for more information, please contact Community Health Partnership at 503-227-5502.

Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute, founded in 1999 as Friends of Public Health, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of Oregonians through advocacy and support of effective public health policy and activities. The organization is currently focused on improving Oregon's children's nutrition and physical activity.

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