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HEALTH SYSTEM AWARDED FOR FOSTERING HEALTH-CARE CAREERS

(SACRAMENTO, Calif.) -- In recognition of its efforts to expose students to opportunities in the health-care professions, UC Davis Health System recently received an award from Linking Education to Economic Development.

Presented at the Radisson Hotel, the Outstanding Dedication to Educational Partnerships Award honored the health system for working with local schools to help educate students about the career choices available in health care. Gloria Alvarado, executive director of human resources, accepted the award on behalf of the health system.

Linking Education to Economic Development is a nonprofit organization in the Sacramento region dedicated to developing partnerships among business, labor, education, community, and government.

Some of the ways that the health system makes students aware of health-care professions, or assists them in entering them, are as follows: Sacramento High School of Math, Engineering and Health Sciences: The health system is the lead sponsor of the school, forming a partnership that allows students to hear speakers from the health-care industry, take tours of UC Davis Medical Center, attend career fairs and gain occupational skills through job shadowing and volunteering.

CURE High School Research Academy: This is a cancer science educational partnership among UC Davis Cancer Center, the Center for Biophotonics Science Technology and St. Hope Public Schools. It aims to train the next generation of cancer scientists by exposing students to cancer science, medical technologies and scientific research.

National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine: The forum is one of the nation's leading programs in pre-medical education for high school students and is conducted every summer at some of the most prestigious hospitals, research facilities and medical schools in the United States. The health system has been part of the program for almost 10 years.

Saturday Academy: Once a year, over a period of four Saturdays, students from the UC Davis School of Medicine introduce groups of teenagers to what amounts to a condensed version of medical school. The academy was founded in 2001 by three first-year medical students who realized they were in a unique position to serve as community leaders and mentors for local high schools, especially those schools with populations not well-represented in the medical professions.

UC Davis Health System is an integrated, academic health system encompassing UC Davis School of Medicine, the 577-bed acute-care hospital and clinical services of UC Davis Medical Center, the 800-member physician group known as UC Davis Medical Group, and the proposed Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing.

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