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## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Regional Healthcare Workforce Alliance Presented with Governor's Workforce Development Collaboration Award** *Summit's Action Team Leaders Honored for Commitment to Regional Vision*

**Chicago, IL (November 5, 2003)** – The Regional Healthcare Workforce Alliance, a group of many stakeholders including business, education, labor, community organizations and others, has been addressing workforce shortages in the healthcare industry. This alliance has the benefit of five healthcare executives charged with leading and directing three workforce action teams. Recently these business leaders were selected as the winner of the 2003 Governor's Award for Collaboration in Workforce Development.

As action teams established as a result of the 2002 Healthcare Summit, the Regional Healthcare Workforce Alliance was chosen from among a state-wide pool of nominees for demonstrating a continued commitment to impacting the healthcare workforce crisis in the region. The healthcare action teams were assembled for the purpose of implementing workforce and economic development follow-up activities powered by the momentum of the 2002 Healthcare Summit, convened by the Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago.

The accomplishments and continued follow-up action brought forth by the teams are among the most significant outcomes of the 2002 Healthcare Workforce Summit. The Healthcare Workforce Summit was the first of six targeted industry conferences organized by the Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago. As a major component of the Workforce Boards' sector-based strategy, the industry summits are designed to provide a forum for business, education, industry associations, chambers of commerce, organized labor and community organizations to identify workforce issues and work together to recommend solutions.

The healthcare action team co-chairs include Jason Burris, Employment Coordinator, St. Alexius Medical Center; Mary Anne Kelly, former Executive Director of the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration [Ms. Kelly is currently Vice President, Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council]; Nancy Krier, Policy Consultant for Nursing and Workforce, Illinois Hospital Association; Steve Niems, Manager of Career and Transition Services, Advocate Healthcare; and Kevin Scanlan, Executive Vice President of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.

## GOVERNOR'S COLLABORATION AWARD / ADD ONE

Recipients of the Collaboration Award must exemplify three equally-weighted criteria. They must demonstrate their ability to work as a team and contribute jointly in addressing workforce development needs of the community; they must exceed job expectations in contributing to the achievements of a common goal; and their collaboration must result in the achievement of significant, successful and noteworthy outcomes. The five co-chairs of the Regional Healthcare Workforce Alliance were recognized for their combined efforts and outstanding leadership in each of these categories.

The three healthcare action teams, *Building the Information Infrastructure*; *Building Career Information, Awareness and Career Paths*; and *Identifying and Supporting Replication Models*, meet monthly to identify goals, implement strategic action plans and provide the Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago with access to valuable employer-based data that is critical in understanding the region's multifaceted healthcare workforce issues.

As a result of the leadership demonstrated by the Regional Healthcare Workforce Alliance co-chairs, a number of vital outcomes have been accomplished in a relatively short time-frame. Among them are a meeting of the metro-area community colleges, convened to address some of the root causes of the healthcare workforce shortage, and preparations for an event targeted to healthcare CEOs for the purpose of promoting and sharing information about employer-driven workforce retention models.

As co-chair Nancy Krier notes, "Already a huge success, the Regional Healthcare Workforce Alliance is a first-ever opportunity for many stakeholders in the region to come together and combine their strengths and resources to identify and address the critical healthcare workforce challenges."

The additional Governor's Workforce Development Award categories were Individual Leadership, Business Leadership, Entrepreneur and Innovative Solutions. Prerequisites for nomination were involvement in Illinois' workforce/economic development system during the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, and a formal written nomination by a Local Illinois Workforce Investment Board Chair. The Governor's Awards were presented at the Governor's Workforce Development Conference on October 23, 2003, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago form a unique consortium of nine Workforce Boards that include the municipal areas of Chicago, Northern Cook, South and West Suburban Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will, McHenry, Kane/Kendall/DeKalb and Grundy/Livingston/Kankakee counties. The Workforce Boards play a key role in the economic development of their local workforce areas by forging partnerships between education, economic development, labor, government and community organizations to recruit and retain a highly-skilled workforce for their communities and the region as a whole. For more information please visit their web site at [www.workforceboardsmetrochicago.org](http://www.workforceboardsmetrochicago.org) or call your local Workforce Investment Board.

*Interviews Available*

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