



2015 FALL CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Published October 12, 2015

Welcome to the 2015 NWRPCA/CHAMPS Fall Conference: Get Your Second Wind in Seattle

CHAMPS and the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) **welcome you to Seattle, WA and the 2015 Fall Primary Care Conference!** In these four days of exceptional presentations and networking opportunities, we invite you to celebrate and take inventory of health center accomplishments and progress through the sharing of success stories, refreshing new perspectives, and learning solid strategies for leading change. Use this occasion to strengthen connections with old friends, cultivate new relationships, and renew your enthusiasm and commitment to providing care for the medically underserved!

To our Health Center peers from Region VIII, Region X, the Western Clinicians Network, and from across the nation – thank you for joining us!

CHAMPS Leadership and Networking Events

CHAMPS Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, 10/18, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Cyan Room

Welcome Reception

Sunday, 10/18, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Ballroom C

Dialogue with NACHC

Monday, 10/19, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, Cyan Room

2016 Fall Conference Planning Meeting

Tuesday, 10/20, 7:30 – 8:20 am, Cyan Room

Roundtable Lunches

Sunday, 10/18, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Board of Directors, Clinicians

Tuesday, 10/20, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Chief Executive Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Chief Operating Officers, Human Resources, Outreach and Enrollment, Primary Care Associations

Opening and Closing Speakers

Be sure to attend these events to hear from our federal and national partners and experience renowned speakers.

Opening Plenary, Monday, October 19, 8:30 – 10:30 am, Ballroom

- ★ **Dr. Marilyn Gaston**, Former Assistant Surgeon General and Director, Bureau of Primary Health Care
- ★ **Dan Hawkins**, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Research, National Association of Community Health Centers
- ★ **Tonya Bowers**, Associate Administrator, Bureau of Primary Health Care

Closing Plenary, Tuesday, October 20, 3:30 – 5:00 pm, Ballroom

- ★ **Sallie Sanford**, Associate Professor, University of Washington

Inside this Issue:

- ★ New Access Points
- ★ CHAMPS 30th Anniversary
- ★ Region VIII Awardee at NACHC CHI
- ★ HHS Funding for Quality Improvement and Expanded Services

Awards for Region VIII Health Centers: New Access Points

In May and August, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced \$270 million in grants to fund 430 new health center sites. Twenty of these grants were awarded to health centers in Region VIII. Congratulations to newly funded Clínica Tepeyac, Marillac Clinic, Inc., Heritage Health Center (Powell Health Care Coalition), and Sapphire Community Health, Inc., and to all the other grantees in Region VIII!

Visit www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/08/20150811a.html to read the news release.

CHAMPS Celebrates 30th Anniversary!



February 19, 2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States. Countless individuals and organizations have been instrumental in the success of CHAMPS, contributing their talents, wisdom, resources, and vision to enable CHAMPS to serve Region VIII for three decades. Throughout 2015, CHAMPS has been celebrating and honoring all who have supported and guided CHAMPS over the years.

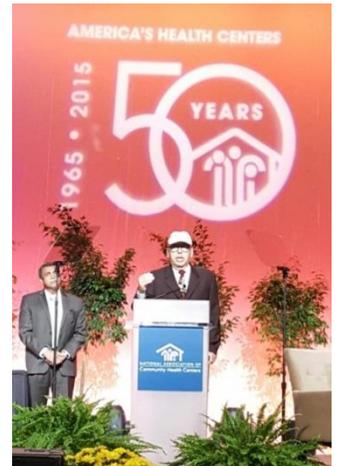
Explore highlights of CHAMPS' three decades by visiting www.CHAMPSonline.org and clicking on the landscape photo to view an infographic, testimonials, an interactive timeline, and membership milestones.

Thank you Region VIII Community Health Centers and State Primary Care Associations for supporting CHAMPS since 1985!

Region VIII Health Center Leader Honored at the NACHC CHI

Each year the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) recognizes exemplary leaders from across the nation. This past August, a long-time Region VIII community health center staff member was honored at the NACHC Community Health Institute (CHI) held in Orlando, FL.

Virgilio Licona, MD (retired, pictured at right) from Salud Family Health Centers in Colorado received the **2015 Samuel U. Rodgers Achievement Award** for exemplifying excellence in clinical practice and leadership. In 1972, Dr. Licona moved to rural Colorado as a young community organizer. He became the first director of a small migrant and community health center in Rocky Ford. In recounting the early days of the clinic, Dr. Licona mentions that one of the biggest challenges was recruitment, which propelled him to become a physician assistant and later a family physician. Dr. Licona's contributions to the Community Health Center Movement cannot be overstated and are sincerely admired and appreciated.



View www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RKXyEFpp24&feature=youtu.be for a slideshow from Colorado Community Health Network's Celebration Honoring Dr. Licona at the NACHC CHI.

Dr. Licona, CHAMPS thanks you for your long-serving leadership in Region VIII!

HHS Awards Quality Improvement, Expanded Services, and Capital Funding

This summer, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced two grant awards to support health centers. In August, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Acting Administrator Jim Macrae announced \$63.3 million in health center quality improvement awards to 1,153 health centers. These funds will be used to expand current quality improvement systems and infrastructure, and improve primary care service delivery in the communities they serve. In September, HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced nearly \$500 million in awards to expand health care services and to construct or renovate facilities.

Congratulations to all the Region VIII grantees receiving awards!

Visit www.hhs.gov/news/press/2014pres/12/20141209b.html to read the quality improvement awards news release.

Visit www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/09/20150915a.html to read the expanded services and infrastructure funding news release.