

NORTHWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

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Northwest Health Foundation Brings Three Health Leaders to Board of Directors

New Board Members Have Diverse Backgrounds, Areas of Expertise

PORTLAND, Ore. – December 15, 2009 – The Northwest Health Foundation has added three of Oregon’s leading voices in public health and health care to its governing board. Following a selection process overseen by the Foundation’s nominating committee, the board has elected the following individuals:

- Vanetta Abdellatif of Portland
- Dr. Robbie Law of Reedsport
- Carl Talton of Portland

Dr. Mel Kohn, director of the Oregon Public Health Division and Northwest Health Foundation board member since 2002, was also elected the new chair of the board.

“Northwest Health Foundation’s board members bring a multifaceted voice of community to our work and the new board members continue our commitment to bringing the best informed voices into our strategic planning and policy work,” said the Foundation’s president Thomas Aschenbrener.

Vanetta Abdellatif, director of Integrated Clinical Services at the Multnomah County Health Department, has a wide range of health systems administration experience in nonprofit and public sectors. She is currently leading the county’s Electronic Medical Records Implementation team and has worked at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital, Legacy Health System and Providence Health System. She is currently the chair of the governing board for the Oregon Primary Care Association.

Dr. Robbie Law, a board certified family physician, has practiced at Dunes Family Health Center in Reedsport, Ore. since 1991. In addition to his work at Dunes Family Health Center, he was appointed clinical faculty at Oregon Health Sciences University in 1993, where he teaches medical students and residents. Additionally, Dr. Law is the medical director for the Extended Care Facility at Lower Umpqua Hospital. He serves as the Steering Committee chair for the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network. Dr. Law currently sits on the Patient Centered Primary Care Home Standards Advisory Committee for Oregon Health Policy and Research. He is an active member and former president of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians and a former board member of the Southwest Oregon Area Health Education Centers.

Carl Talton, CEO and president of Portland Family of Funds Holdings, Inc., has a broad business background that includes executive positions at Portland General Electric and Pacific Power. In his current position, he oversees a number of health-related building projects in the Northwest, including the Oregon Medical Clinic and the Seattle Children's Hospital. A former board member for Legacy Emanuel Hospital, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and the Portland Development Commission, Mr. Talton most recently served as a commissioner with the Oregon Business Development Commission. He is also a founding member of the Northeast Community Development Corporation and the North/Northeast Economic and Community Development Alliance.

"We were challenged to replace the skills of our three outgoing board members," said Alissa Keny-Guyer, chair of the nominating committee, "but these outstanding individuals bring a similar passion for helping ALL Oregonians achieve better health."

More than 35 individuals were selected as potential candidates for the three director positions. The new board members will replace Jim Hill, Richard Page and Dr. Nathalie Johnson. Mr. Hill and Mr. Page served on the board since the Foundation's inception in 1998 and Dr. Johnson served on the board for the past eight years. Ms. Abdellatif, Dr. Law and Mr. Talton will each serve a four-year term.

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The mission of the Northwest Health Foundation is to advance, support and promote the health of the people in Oregon and southwest Washington. The Foundation invests in efforts that address the root causes of health through community-driven solutions and seeks to ensure that the voices of all people are represented in health policy discussions. Northwest Health Foundation focuses its work in three areas: public health, health care reform, and health workforce.

More information can be found at www.nwhf.org.