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*Providence Hosts Commencement for the First Capital Health Careers (CHC) Project
Graduating Class of 2010*

Washington, DC (Vocus) August 12, 2010 -- [Providence Health Foundation](#), the lead partner in the Capital Health Careers (CHC) Project, consisting of employers, educational institutions, support service providers, and non-profit organizations in the DC Metropolitan area, hosted the first graduation of its grant participants on August 4, 2010. CHC was awarded a \$4.9 million grant in February of this year from the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to train approximately 500 persons for health career professions, thereby expanding the District's pool of highly qualified health care workers.



The first successful class of 21 students graduated from the [Community College of the District of Columbia](#) with Home Health Aide certificates. Four of the students have already been placed in employment and United Planning Organization (UPO), a CHC Partner, is providing job readiness assistance to place the others into positions in their new careers in the flourishing healthcare sector.

“We are pleased that the first CHC class graduates from CCDC this week. We have reached an important milestone with this accomplishment in our goal to enhance health care workforce opportunities in the Greater Washington region. We look forward to many more celebrations such

as this as participants both complete their intensive trainings and find employment in their chosen healthcare field,” says Stephen Burns, CHC Project Director at Providence Hospital.

Amy Freeman, the President and CEO of [Providence Hospital](#), welcomed the graduates and their guests with words of guidance and admiration. Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, CEO of the Community College of the District of Columbia was the Key Note Speaker, expressing great enthusiasm for the 95% graduation rate. "You have set new standards for you, your children and your childrens' children - who now, because of you, have a greater chance of furthering their education," said Dr. Gueverra. Both Mayor Fenty and Council Member Harry Thomas, Jr. attended as well, offering the graduates words of encouragement and congratulations.



About [Capital Health Careers](#) - CHC recruits the unemployed, dislocated, and incumbent workforce, especially those with low income and limited skills, who would like to enter or advance in health care careers. CHC then provides training for those seeking careers as direct health care workers and health information technology specialists. Training programs at Community College of the District of Columbia include Community Health Worker, Home Health Aide, Disability Service Provider, Certified Nursing Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse and RN-BSN (Bachelors Degree). Health Information Technology educational programs are available at Catholic University of America. CHC also provides support services to assist students throughout course completion, the job search process, and post-placement retention. This project is open to persons who reside or work in the District of Columbia.

The CHC Partners include: Catholic University of America, The Community College of the District of Columbia, United Planning Organization, District of Columbia Primary Care Association, Department on Disability Services, Department of Employment Services, and Providence Hospital.

For additional information regarding CHC, please contact the CHC Project Coordinator, Tracy Chiles McGhee at tracy.mcgee@provhosp.org or at 202-269-7797. In addition, you may visit the Providence Health Foundation website at: <http://www.providencehealthfoundation.org>.

About Providence Hospital - For 150 years, Providence Hospital has provided landmark medical care for persons in need throughout the metropolitan area. We are the longest continuously operating hospital in the nation's capital—yet we're still setting new standards in innovative, state-of-the-art health and wellness services. With strengths in orthopedic care, maternal and infant health, surgery, cardiology, geriatric medicine, cancer treatment, sleep medicine, bariatric services, and stroke care, we combine sophisticated medical technology with spirituality and compassion. Providence serves with a mission of healing and a dedication to community. Providence is part of [Ascension Health](#), the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system, committed to Healthcare that is Safe, Healthcare that Works and Healthcare that leaves no one behind.

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