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Southwest Georgia residents will benefit from new community health initiative

NOVEMBER 26, 2007

The Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern University has been awarded a two-year, \$500,000 grant from Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital of Albany, Ga., to develop a comprehensive assessment of community needs in the hospital's Southwest Georgia service area. Using community and provider data, JPHCOPH will develop targeted programs to improve the health status of the community and remove health disparities among its residents.

'As an organization, Phoebe's community health strategy has always focused on the initiatives that anticipate and respond to the needs of Southwest Georgians. We have long practiced upstream investments in the health of the community and our residents. This partnership with Georgia Southern is a natural evolution for improving health status and access to care," said Joel Wernick, Phoebe president and CEO.

The new project is named the Southwest Georgia Community-Based Health Initiative, and it will operate from the JPHCOPH Center for Rural Health and Research.

Stuart Tedders, director of the center, will coordinate the on-campus faculty and student involvement in the initiative and work with the project's director, Sandra Handwerk.

'Sandra Handwerk is an Albany, Ga.-based public health professional who has been active in the hospital's previous Community Health Institute," said Tedders. 'She has joined our project as its director, and she will work with the community and with health care providers to identify community resources and needs. One of our primary goals is to develop and maintain a community council and assist that group in developing and communicating its recommendations." Under the terms of the grant, Handwerk will also coordinate development of other grants and funding resources that will allow the project to sustain its long-term activities.

In addition to providing opportunities for faculty research, the Southwest Georgia Community-Based Health Initiative will provide opportunities for JPHCOPH students in the Masters of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health programs to complete hands-on practicums in community health organizations.

'This is a win-win situation," said Tedders. 'The community will benefit from a growing number of public health professionals, and JPHCOPH students will gain invaluable community health experience."

'So many people collaborated to make the Southwest Georgia Community-Based Health Initiative a reality for us," said JPHCOPH Dean Charles Hardy. 'Karl Peace, a native of Southwest Georgia and a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Scholar, built the initial relationship we have with Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. We are also grateful for the support of Dr. James Hotz, an established leader in rural health services who created the first Community Health Institute."

'The Southwest Georgia Community-Based Health Initiative is directly congruent with the mission of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health," said Hardy. 'We are excited to be partners with Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, and we look forward to serving the people of southwest Georgia.'

"Hot Topics in Employment Law" will be focus of December seminar in Savannah

NOVEMBER 26, 2007

Business owners and managers are encouraged to sign up for a Savannah seminar that will address some of the most crucial litigation issues that employers face.

'Hot Topics in Employment Law" will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Coastal Georgia Center.

Part of the Legal Awareness in the Workplace (LAW) series sponsored by Georgia Southern University, the seminar will be taught by Shawn Kachmar, an attorney in the employment law firm of Hunter, Maclean, Exley and Dunn, P.C.

Kachmar will review emerging trends in workplace claims in the 21st century.

Kachmar will also discuss what firms and their human resources managers can do to prevent these kinds of claims.

The LAW series will return to Savannah with 'Workplace Violence in Georgia" on Jan. 22, 'Recent Developments in the Fair Labor Standards Act" on March 25, 'Basics of the Family and Medical Leave Act" on April 22, and 'Georgia Employment Law" on June 24.

The LAW series will continue in Brunswick for 'Retaliation Under Title VII" on Feb. 12 and 'Best Practices in Running Background and Reference Checks" on May 13.

The fee for each seminar is \$69 per person. The fee will be reduced to \$59 for anyone who signs up for three or more seminars, and for groups of three or more people from the same firm.

Each seminar provides 1.5 recertification credit hours for individuals with (Senior) Professional in Human Resources (PHR/SPHR) certification.

Advance registration for any of the seminars may be made by calling Georgia Southern University's Continuing Education Center at (912) 681-5551.

For more information on any of the seminars,

visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/lawseminar.html> or contact J. Marie Lutz, SPHR, at seminars@georgiasouthern.edu or (912) 871-1763.

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