

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 23, 2010

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University of Washington School of Pharmacy Honored for Transformative Community Service

Alexandria, Va. – The [University of Washington \(UW\) School of Pharmacy](#) will receive the [2010-11 AACP Transformative Community Service Award](#) for their significant institutional commitment to addressing unmet community needs through education, practice and research.

The award, consisting of a commemorative Steuben glass Beacon of Light and a financial stipend, highlights community service as an important element of the academic mission and singles out institutions that can serve as examples of social responsiveness on the part of the academic medical community.

“I am consistently impressed by our students’ and faculty’s commitment to organizing and engaging in community service projects,” said Dr. Thomas A. Baillie, dean of the UW School of Pharmacy. “Of particular note is our school’s devotion to reaching out to underserved populations. From providing health-literacy education to refugee women to offering immunizations to homeless populations, students and faculty take great pride in knowing they’re helping people who often lack access to basic health services and information.”

The UW School of Pharmacy’s *Bridges to Health Patient Advocacy Center* was created to support student interest in designing, implementing and evaluating community outreach and patient advocacy programs. A leadership team, composed of a president, treasurer, students from each professional year, and a faculty advisory board, provide the training resources and guidance for students and pharmacists interested in collaborating with community-based organizations.

One of the community outreach programs supported by *Bridges to Health* is the Nisqually Tribal Clinic. At the clinic, students and a UW faculty member are helping to remodel the pharmacy and expand the clinical services offered by the staff pharmacist. As a result of this collaboration, medication therapy management services have been established and students are gaining experiences in team-based patient care in underserved medical regions. The tribe hopes that by involving student pharmacists in these efforts, those students will consider working at the clinic upon graduation. A plan to develop a diabetes care center at the Nisqually Tribal Clinic is also under discussion and funds from the AACP Transformative Community Service Award will be used to help purchase supplies for the diabetes care center.

The Refugee Women’s Alliance (ReWA) exemplifies another UW community partnership. The multi-ethnic, community-based organization provides comprehensive services to refugee and immigrant women and families in the Puget Sound area. School of Pharmacy involvement includes providing health fairs and educational classes on health promotion and disease prevention activities for families who utilize ReWA’s services. UW’s diverse student body was utilized to create an “Information You Should Know About Your New Medication” resource translated in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Spanish and Russian.

In addition, students translated a personal medication record that lists all medications and other products the patient is currently taking. These efforts will be expanded to other languages in the future.

Representatives from the UW School of Pharmacy will be honored during the 2011 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars, July 9-13, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.

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About AACP

Founded in 1900, AACP is a national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 120 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 6,190 faculty, 54,700 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,400 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education. Visit www.aacp.org to learn more about AACP and stay connected with the Association on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).