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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Katherine Doyle  
Catskill Hudson AHEC  
[kdoyle@chahec.org](mailto:kdoyle@chahec.org)  
(845) 883-7260

## **Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center to Host LGBT Seminar**

Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will conduct a Health Profession Seminar: *Improving Healthcare for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals* on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Middletown, NY. The seminar will provide an historical overview and current challenges of LGBT healthcare, a review of cultural competency in transgender care, and consideration of self-awareness of healthcare practice towards the LGBT community.

The program will provide an educational forum covering topics relevant to the LGBT patient population; to increase the knowledge-base of healthcare providers and support-staff caring for LGBT patients; and to encourage adoption of LGBT culture-friendly practices throughout the healthcare community. The intended audience for this program is physicians, nurses, social workers and all other healthcare professionals (clinical or non-clinical) who provide health-related services to the LGBT patient population. Topics will relate to both healthcare services as well as the patient care experience.

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals are at an increased risk for a number of health issues while facing treatment barriers compared to their heterosexual peers. LGBT people are members of every community and socioeconomic group. Consideration of their healthcare needs should be addressed to eliminate healthcare disparities and improve health-related outcomes for this patient population.

Sponsorship for this program is provided by Westchester Medical Center Health Network PPS. "The WMCHHealth PPS is committed to the provision of equitable health care services for all members in our communities," said June Keenan, Executive Director, WMCHHealth PPS. "We endorse participation in this and all similar seminars that aim to increase awareness and cultural competence of providers in the Hudson Valley."

### **About Catskill Hudson AHEC**

Catskill Hudson AHEC is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to address regional healthcare workforce shortages through education and collaborative community relationships to assist students, career seekers, and health professionals. For additional information on programs and services, please contact the staff at Catskill Hudson AHEC at (845) 883-7260 or visit their website at [www.chahec.org](http://www.chahec.org).

### **About WMCHHealth PPS**

The WMCHHealth Performing Provider System (WMCHHealth PPS) was established to participate in New York State's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. A significant component of DSRIP participation includes the implementation and endorsement of culturally and linguistically appropriate education, training and inter-professional collaboration among providers in our network; fostering organizational cultures that promote person-centered health care and services for all members in our communities. To learn more about the WMCHHealth PPS, visit [www.crhi-ny.org](http://www.crhi-ny.org)