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NEWS RELEASE

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CLEVELAND STATE'S MAXINE GOODMAN LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY RECEIVES MORE THAN \$900,000 IN NIH FUNDS

The Center for Health Equity (CHE) at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University has been awarded a \$943,079 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The CHE will implement the research training and education core of a larger \$6 million Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach and Research on Disparities in Health and Training (EXPORT) grant awarded to a collaborative involving MetroHealth Medical Center, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University, and the Cleveland Department of Public Health that will study and address health disparities in Cleveland.

Health disparities, also called health inequalities, are race, gender, or income-related differences in diseases, health outcomes, or access to healthcare. NIH EXPORT grants provide funding for the establishment of centers of excellence to address and ultimately eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.

As the lead on the research training and education core of the EXPORT grant, CHE will partner with Cuyahoga Community College and Case Western Reserve University to develop a comprehensive, coordinated, and collaborative program of recruitment, education, and retention designed to expand the workforce of health providers, researchers, and faculty working to reduce health disparities. The specific aims of the project are to recruit and retain students, particularly those from minority backgrounds, for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral programs related to health disparities; provide diverse undergraduate and graduate educational opportunities emphasizing knowledge and skills in research to reduce health disparities; identify, recruit, and support post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty to ensure their successful entry into academic positions focused on biomedical and behavioral/social research; and to develop and institutionalize support structures to ensure the sustainability of this initiative.

ADD Page 2 of 2

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“This grant will be a great catalyst to a level of synergy between students, professionals and faculty that will increase knowledge and skill set addressing health disparities in Greater Cleveland,” said Peter Whitt, Associate Director of the CHE, and principal investigator for Cleveland State’s portion of the grant. The CHE will be drawing upon faculty and research expertise from across the University.

“This is a great example of collaboration among area institutions to attract new resources to address some of Cleveland’s most important challenges,” said Bette Bonder, a co-investigator and Dean of the College of Science at Cleveland State.

This award grew out of the National Institutes of Health commitment to make health disparities a major research priority. Cleveland is the only city in Ohio to receive this type of funding from the NIH.

The Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs is ranked among the top eight schools of urban affairs in the United States. The College ranked second in the graduate specialty of city management and urban policy in *U.S. News and World Report’s* 1998, 2002, and 2005 issues of “America’s Best Graduates Schools.” The college offers 13 degree programs: bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and dual degree programs that provide the opportunity to earn the Juris Doctor (J.D.) with a Master of Public Administration (J.D./M.P.A.), a Master of Urban Planning, Design, and Development (J.D./M.U.P.D.D.) or a JD/Master of Arts in Environmental Studies. A focal point for community outreach and research, the college is the home to the *Economic Development Quarterly (EDQ)*, the leading journal in the field of economic development.

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