



October 1, 2013
For immediate release

Contact: Jeanne Zeidler
jzeidler@wchf.com
(757) 345-0912

**WILLIAMSBURG HEALTH FOUNDATION HONORS
HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AT THE
2013 HEALTHCARE HEROES EVENT**

Williamsburg, VA - At its annual Healthcare Heroes event on October 3, 2013, The Williamsburg Health Foundation (WHF) will honor three individuals and one program for their work in healthcare workforce development. The 2013 theme is “Working Toward a Healthy Future.”

“Healthcare Heroes has been a signature program of the Williamsburg Health Foundation since 1999,” said Doug Myers, Chair of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. “Our goal is to bring the community together each year to celebrate dedication, skill, innovation and success in improving the health of people in our community, and to thank the people responsible.”

Dr. Carl Gibson and Ethlyn Gibson, RN, MSN are honored for their volunteer leadership of the Health Explorers Post #757 – Boule Medical Scholars Program. Dr. and Mrs. Gibson led the program in developing partnerships with local school systems to recruit high school students interested in medical careers and to enroll them in the Medical Scholars Program. The program, in partnership with the local health systems, introduces participants to the variety of medical professions available to them via a year-long series of interactive learning sessions.

Dr. Avtar Dhillon is honored for his work while serving as the Medical Director for Colonial Behavioral Health. Dr. Dhillon conducted multiple training sessions for safety-net healthcare clinicians, teaching them how to screen, assess and refer patients experiencing behavioral health issues. Dr. Dhillon’s sessions focused on treating the whole patient by integrating primary care with behavioral health treatment. Because of Dr. Dhillon’s work, Williamsburg’s safety-net system has access to leading-edge resources not typically available in other communities.

The Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) Historic Triangle Campus is being honored for its Health Professions Division which includes nursing and dental hygiene. TNCC has responded to a community need by offering programs to train students in a variety of healthcare professions. The TNCC Historic Triangle Campus is playing a critical role to ensure a well-trained healthcare workforce in the future.

“Changes in health delivery systems will require a workforce with more diverse skill sets, including new types of training in a variety of professions. WHF is pleased to honor the people

and programs positively impacting the local, healthcare workforce landscape,” said Cressondra Conyers, WHF Healthcare Heroes Committee Chair.

Dr. Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, Director of the Virginia Department of Health Professions, will serve as the keynote speaker for the invitation-only event.

The WHF is a private, non-profit dedicated to improving the health of people living in Williamsburg and the surrounding community by strengthening access to quality health services and promoting responsible health practices.

#