

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, February 5, 2009 CONTACT: HRSA PRESS OFFICE 301-443-3376

HRSA-funded Health Workforce Information Center Goes Live

The new HRSA-funded Health Workforce Information Center, <u>www.healthworkforceinfo.org</u>, will provide free access to the most recent resources on the nation's health workforce in one easy-to-use online location.

"HRSA is pleased to have the University of North Dakota as a partner in creating the center," Administrator Elizabeth M. Duke said. "As shortages of physicians, nurses and allied health personnel worsen, information available through the center will help lawmakers, hospitals and schools develop strategies to meet future workforce demands."

Operated by UND's School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the center will offer the latest on:

- health workforce programs and funding sources;
- workforce data, research and policy;
- educational opportunities and models;
- best practices; and
- related news and events, also available through e-mail updates.

In addition, information specialists will be on hand with customized assistance to locate statistics, create data-based maps, develop lists of possible funding sources, supply publications and connect users to the right organizations or federal programs. Users can contact the specialists online or by phone or fax.

"Many people in government and private and nonprofit organizations need access to the type of quickly assembled, user-friendly data the center will make available," said Kristine Sande, the center's deputy director. "Accurate information on the health workforce will be vitally important in the ongoing health care debate, and we will provide a way for individuals to get it from a single, trusted source."

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. HRSA press releases are available on the Web at <u>http://www.hrsa.gov/newsroom</u>. For more information about HRSA and its programs, visit <u>www.hrsa.gov</u>.