

NEWS ADVISORY:
September 21, 2011

Contact:
Sara Litwiller
(207) 780-4150
slitwiller@usm.maine.edu

Maine Health Workforce Forum Presents First Annual Summit, Gov. LePage to Speak

Portland, Maine—At a critical time in Maine’s history, when the state faces severe shortages in various health care professions, the Maine Health Workforce Forum’s first annual summit examines the current health care workforce, trends and changes in the nature of health care delivery, and strategies to create a resourceful workforce that meets the growing needs of the state and the nation.

WHAT: The State of the State’s Health Workforce Summit

WHEN: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Wells Conference Center
University of Maine
Orono, Maine

WHO: -**Governor Paul LePage** to provide opening remarks
-**Edward Salsberg**, national leader in the field of health professions workforce and director of the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis at the Bureau of Health Professions in the US Department of Health and Human Services, to lead panel on workforce demographics
-**Maine Commissioners of Labor; Health and Human Services; Education; Economic and Community Development**, along with health employers and higher education leadership throughout Maine to discuss the state’s response to health workforce needs

There is no admission fee. Registration is required by October 5. To register for the summit, visit www.mainehealthworkforceforum.org. For more information, contact Sally Sutton at (207) 228-8158 or ssutton@usm.maine.edu.

###

The Maine Health Workforce Forum was established in 2005 by the Maine Legislature to address Maine’s current and projected workforce needs. The Forum is a statewide group of public and private sector stakeholders committed to ensuring a sufficient supply of qualified health and long-term care workforce in Maine. Membership in the Forum is open and voluntary and includes: employers, representatives of health professional associations, licensing boards, educational institutions, and Maine Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and Education, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Support for the summit is provided by the Maine Health Care Sector Grant, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration and the Maine Department of Labor. This project provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Additional support for the summit is provided by the University of Maine, Office of Academic Affairs, School of Nursing, College of Natural Science, Forestry and Agriculture. Staffing for the summit is provided by the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School of Public Service.