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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION AWARDED TO RUTH LILLY HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

MILWAUKEE, WI - Ruth Lilly Health Education Center of Indianapolis, Indiana achieved accreditation status by the National Association of Health Education Centers.

The announcement, made at a national health education conference in Cincinnati, comes in the wake of national media attention to the key role played by credible health education in injury and illness prevention. Executive Director, Julian Peebles, and Ruth Lilly staff were present to accept the award. "Being the first independent health education center in the country to be fully accredited by our national association is a clear affirmation of the great work being done for the children of Indiana here at the RLHEC," Peebles said. "We are most appreciative that our work on behalf of the health of Indiana schoolchildren has been recognized in such a worthwhile way."

National Association of Health Education Center accreditation brings national recognition to a health education program for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. The NAHEC Accreditation Program serves as the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. Developed and sustained by health education professionals, the program reflects, reinforces, and promotes best practices, institutional ethics, and the highest standards of health education program operations.

The Accreditation process, which includes an extensive self-study and peer review process, ensures that accredited members are credible and accountable in their educational programming and delivery. The process certifies that both institutions have undergone a rigorous process of self-assessment as well as review by its peers and they fulfill their obligations to the public as set forth in their individual missions.

For more information about NAHEC or its Accreditation Program, visit www.nahec.org.

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About the National Association of Health Education Centers (NAHEC)

Established in 1989, the National Association of Health Education Centers (NAHEC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting a national network of organizations that provide health education programs. Through this network, over 3.7 million children and adults receive health education that empowers them to actively participate in creating healthier communities.

For more information about the National Association of Health Education Centers, please visit www.nahec.org.

About Ruth Lilly Health Education Center

The Ruth Lilly Health Education Center offers more than 60 different health education programs within seven content areas – general health, nutrition, human growth and development, drug education, fitness, mental health, and disease prevention and control. Our programs are developed by a volunteer advisory group of nurses, physicians, students, and teachers, including our own professional health educators.

The mission of the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center is to provide inspiring health education that promotes and reinforces healthy lifestyle choices for children and adults. We strive to fulfill our mission by teaching health in accurate, practical, and exciting ways. Based on the knowledge that students learn in a variety of ways, a multi-sensory approach is used in presenting our programs. Utilizing life-size models, high-tech audio/visual aids, unique exhibits, and lively, interactive curricula, our enthusiastic, professional health educators teach programs in a manner that appeals to children and young adults regardless of age, cultural or socio-economic status or learning style.

In 2001, the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center was named Marion County's "Not-for-Profit Public Health Star of the Year" by Health and Hospital Corporation. In the fall of 2003, the RLHEC's Body Talk program was awarded the National Association of Health Education Centers' (NAHEC) "Richard B. Rush Award for Outstanding Innovation by a Health Education Center." In 2006, the RLHEC's Director of Programs Diana Ruschhaupt was named Outstanding Health Educator of the Year by NAHEC, the Director of Development Anita Ray was recognized as Outstanding Fundraising Executive of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and the Center itself was selected as a finalist for the BKD Indiana Excellence Award.

For more information about the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center, please visit www.rlhec.org.

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