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Lesbian Healthcare Leaping onto the Web

LCCP creating first of its kind online curriculum for healthcare providers

CHICAGO, IL – October 19, 2005 – With the click of a mouse, lesbians, bisexuals and those who are transgender will be better served by healthcare providers serving women with cancer and other health conditions in Illinois. The Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) has been awarded a \$75,000 grant by the Illinois Department of Public Health to bring their years of expertise to the Internet by creating the country's first online curriculum for healthcare providers in providing culturally competent care to LBT clients.

"Every woman in Illinois deserves access to the early detection screening and treatment," said State Senator Carol Ronen. "Discrimination is not tolerated in Illinois and this online curriculum is an important step in ensuring no woman is discriminated against when seeking healthcare."

Since 2003, LCCP has trained over 800 healthcare providers in 40 institutions throughout Chicago and Illinois. The face-to-face trainings can last from one hour to an entire day and cover everything from the differences between sexual behavior and identity to the double impact of homophobia and racism. Trainings have occurred in Illinois hospitals, medical schools, public health clinics, research facilities, and cancer agencies and have included everyone from the front line receptionists to radiologists.

"This online curriculum provides LCCP with another tool in our tool belt of social change," Jessica Halem, Executive Director said. "We often hear from doctors that fitting our trainings into their busy schedules is difficult and we want to remove any barriers providers may have to learning why they need to be culturally competent and how to provide the best care to their LBT clients."

The curriculum will be available by late spring or early summer. LCCP will be working closely with other LGBT healthcare experts and online curriculum specialists to ensure the highest quality information and most compelling experience for greater usage among busy healthcare providers.

"It is an honor to support the work of LCCP," State Representative Harry Osterman said. "Bringing this training program to the largest number of healthcare providers possible ensures our goal of greater access to care for all women in Illinois."

LCCP's Vision is that lesbians, bisexuals, and those who are transgender have appropriate and accessible health care in a supportive and bias-free environment. The Mission of LCCP is to advance the health and quality of life for lesbians, bisexuals and those who are transgender through advocacy and public education.

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