

Public Health Student Caucus Drives National Student Movement

On Saturday, November 9, 2002 just prior to the 2002 annual American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the Public Health Student Caucus, a student run organization in official relations with the APHA convened the first annual National Leadership Conference (NLC) for Students in Healthcare. Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General kicked off this first national student movement by talking about ways students in a variety of health and health related disciplines could collaborate to improve health.

At the conclusion of the NLC, leaders from 12 national students organizations representing more than 180,000 students in a variety of health and health related disciplines signed a memorandum of understanding to form the Student Health Alliance (SHA). With the formation of this alliance, SHA has in effect become the nation's largest organization of students advocating for and working to improve the health of our communities guided by our nation's prevention agenda, Healthy People 2010.

This effort was generously funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the Association of Academic Health Centers, and the Association of Schools of Public Health and sponsored by the APHA. For more information about the first annual NLC or the SHA, please visit www.phsc.org/leadership_conf.html. Please direct any questions about this first national student effort to Chris Day, President of the Public Health Student Caucus and Chair of the Student Health Alliance at cday@phf.org or 202-898-5600 ext 3006.