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AmerisourceBergen and Good Neighbor Pharmacy(R) Support Education and Programs For Community Pharmacy and Retail Entrepreneurship

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Community Pharmacy Programs Created at Universities Nationwide

VALLEY FORGE, Pa., Oct 20, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- AmerisourceBergen and its network program for community pharmacy, Good Neighbor Pharmacy, have extended their commitment to university pharmacy programs across the country. In recent weeks, AmerisourceBergen agreed to fund several educational programs and scholarships for pharmacy students, bringing the total support over the last several years to more than $2 million.

"AmerisourceBergen is committed to supporting the practice of community pharmacy. Community-based pharmacists are critical members of the evolving U.S. health care system and the most accessible professional of the patient's healthcare team," said Dave Yost, CEO and President, AmerisourceBergen. "We are pleased to encourage students to consider community pharmacy and retail entrepreneurship, and to continue this tradition of supportive health care."

The University of Florida College of Pharmacy received a five-year commitment from AmerisourceBergen to help endow a program designed to engage and encourage business ownership in retail pharmacy. Part of the program, which works jointly with the college of business, includes the development of an internship program for pharmacy students to study with a practicing independent storeowner. In addition to in-store work experience, the pharmacist will mentor the student in local networks, so that the student understands the impact an independent pharmacist has in their community.

The University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, has established the Good Neighbor Pharmacy Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurial Pharmacy Practice. The campaign goal for the endowment has been reached, and the next step for the program is the hiring of the faculty Chair in early 2011. This new Chair's role will be to execute a comprehensive program of study embedded within the PharmD curriculum. This program is designed to train and educate student pharmacists who are interested in pursuing a career in private pharmacy practice.

Recently, Ohio Northern University (Ada, OH), Lipscomb University (Nashville, TN), University of Missouri (Kansas City, MO) and University of Toledo (Toledo, OH) established Good Neighbor Pharmacy scholarship programs for students seeking a career in community pharmacy. These scholarship programs, funded by AmerisourceBergen and Good Neighbor Pharmacy, are the newest additions to programs already established at Western University of Health Sciences (Pomona, CA), University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA), Loma Linda University (Loma Linda, CA), Texas Tech University (Dallas, TX), East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, TN), University of Texas (Austin, TX) and others.

Good Neighbor Pharmacy is a network of more than 3,700 independently owned and operated community pharmacies across the United States and Puerto Rico. As part of their patients' health care team, Good Neighbor Pharmacists are committed to providing counsel and support, helping to improve their patients' health and safely manage their medications. Good Neighbor Pharmacy is part of a program offered by AmerisourceBergen, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical services companies serving the United States, Canada and selected global markets. For more information about Good Neighbor Pharmacy, visit http://www.goodneighborpharmacy.com

SOURCE: AmerisourceBergen

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