

NEWS RELEASE

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THE COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CENTER BRINGS REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO ALAMOSA

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Colorado Rural Health Center is the State Office of Rural Health

Aurora, Colorado -- The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is bringing one of its four regional conferences to Alamosa, Colorado on July 16-17, as part of its annual conference schedule for 2009. “We have an exciting conference format this year and look forward to increased attendance and outreach at the southern Colorado conference in Alamosa,” said Lou Ann Wilroy, Executive Director of CRHC. The conference’s various events will be held at the Inn of the Rio Grande and SLV Regional Medical Center, and a reception will be held at the Luther Bean Museum on the Adams State College campus. Sponsors of the Alamosa event include Adams State College, Colorado Health Institute, COPIC Companies, AHEC, AARP, HealthONE Outreach Services, The Colorado Trust, and the Colorado Hospital Association. The other rural communities around the state that will host the remaining CRHC regional conferences in 2009 are Glenwood Springs (August 6-7), and Rocky Ford (August 27-28).

Using the responses from a statewide membership survey, CRHC tailored the Alamosa conference to the needs of the surrounding region. The keynote speaker will be best-selling author T.R. Reid, National Public Radio correspondent, who will present “The Healing of America—A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care.” Reid is one of the nation’s best known correspondents through his coverage of global affairs and documentaries. Additional conference topics include “Provider Recruitment and Retention,” “Access to Care,” and “Health Information Technology”, and speakers will offer up-to-date information and tangible solutions to these pressing issues. The conferences will also provide participants from a variety of healthcare sectors with resources and networking opportunities.

The Alamosa conference will consist of an optional grant-writing workshop and health information class, an optional quality improvement workshop for critical access hospitals, an evening welcome reception, and a full day of conference sessions. In order to reach as many people as possible, minimal registration fees will be charged. “We purposely schedule our conferences so participants can enjoy some rural hospitality and local events while attending,” explained Wilroy. “In this case, our attendees will have a chance to stay over and enjoy the San Luis Valley Pilot’s Association Fly In and Air Show!”

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as the first nonprofit State Office of Rural Health in the U.S. Although every state has an office of rural health, CRHC remains one of only three offices of rural health organized as a nonprofit. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC's mission is "enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues." The Colorado Rural Health Center has a statewide constituency of over 3,500 people and organizations. For more information on the Regional Conferences, visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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