James Buhr, M.D. Health Officer

Theresa Will, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H. Administrator

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Brad Gibbons Director ND AHEC Center for Rural Health, UND SMHS 1301 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037 Katelyn Brinkman Eastern AHEC Director Mayville State University 330 3<sup>rd</sup> St. NE Mayville, ND 58257 Denise Andress Western AHEC Director 109 S Main St. PO Box 615 Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbons, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of City-County Health District, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

City-County Health District (CCHD) in Valley City provides public health services to the Barnes County community. I currently serve on the advisory board at the area Sheyenne Valley Career & Technology Center, and health careers is one area of focus. As an Eastern ND AHEC board member, I am in a position to share information with the board regarding the AHEC program.

Serving as the administrator of CCHD, I know firsthand the problems faced by rural healthcare facilities when trying to hire medical professionals. Only through collaboration and education are we going to be able to continue to attract students to the healthcare workforce to meet the needs in rural and underserved communities in the future.

In closing, we would like to say that City-County Health District is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

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Theresa Will, Administrator City-County Health District

