Silver State Health Insurance Exchange Grants Funds to UNLV School of Medicine

LAS VEGAS – Silver State Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange), owner of Nevada Health Link, the state's online marketplace for budget-appropriate health plans, has partnered with the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Medicine to help uninsured populations receive more access to health coverage via specially trained Community Health Workers (CHWs).

The Exchange is funding a grant that will enable UNLV to recruit up to 10 CHWs, frontline health professionals who are specifically trained to educate, counsel and help to overcome language and transportation barriers for targeted uninsured populations. Outreach efforts will focus on the highest numbers of insurance-eligible individuals not currently enrolled, which include Millennials, Hispanics, American Indians, rural Nevadans, and the self-employed population. To reach these target audiences, the grant requires the School to train two individuals as CHWs from each of these respective target audiences. UNLV and College of Southern Nevada (CSN) students who meet the eligibility requirements can participate in a 10-week curriculum program, during which they will receive certification to become a CHW.

"By building a stronger alliance with the UNLV School of Medicine, we are better positioned to break down barriers that prevent consumers from receiving proper healthcare," said Bruce Gilbert executive director at Nevada's Exchange. "The goal of this initiative is to connect with hard-to-reach uninsured or underinsured populations via trusted one-on-one assistance provided by Community Health Workers who have a deep understanding of the community and the challenges faced by specific populations. These workers will be trained to access all the tools and resources necessary to ensure that more Nevadans secure the health insurance coverage they deserve."

The funds will also help the School add two modules to its current CHW program, a behavioral health first aid course and Certified Application Counselors (CACs) course will be added to the current CHW training coursework, assisting students in receiving necessary CHW certifications. Student recruitment and new coursework is expected to begin in October, which will in turn, help establish the School's development of a CHW agency this fall, pending state regulations.

"We are so appreciative of the support and partnership with Silver State Health Insurance Exchange," said Tracey Green, vice dean clinical affairs, UNLV School of Medicine. "These essential funds will help the school address health care shortages, improve access to care and provide individuals with one-on-one care management that often prevents people from seeking care or maintaining their care."

###

About Silver State Health Insurance Exchange
The Silver State Health Insurance Exchange was created in 2014 by the State of Nevada, on the belief that all Nevadans deserve access to health insurance. Nevada Health Link, the Exchange's online marketplace where Nevadans can shop for a plan designated to fit their needs, is the only supported state-based exchange and the only health insurance resource that can provide consumers with federal tax credits and subsidies to help cover the cost of your insurance. In 2016, more than 88,000 Nevadans enrolled through Nevada Health Link, a record-breaking milestone for the Exchange. For more information about health insurance offered through Nevada Health Link, call 1-855-768-5465, visit www.nevadahealthlink.com, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

About UNLV School of Medicine
The UNLV School of Medicine is creating a world-class center for medical education, patient care, and research that prepares Nevada's physicians with the most innovative and technologically advanced forms of medical training while serving the health care needs of a diverse population through community partnerships. Its main objective is to attract, educate, and retain doctors committed to practicing in Las Vegas, Nevada. UNLV School of Medicine will be the first public allopathic medical school in Las Vegas, Nevada. The medical school was officially established Aug. 22, 2014. For more information, visit www.unlv.edu/medicine.