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Contact: Jean Vileta
726-6548

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OVER ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED TO DULUTH MEDICAL SCHOOL TO DIRECT NATIVE AMERICANS INTO MEDICINE

V.F.
DULUTH--A federal grant of over one-half million dollars has been awarded to fund the Native Americans into Medicine (NAM) program administered by the Center of American Indian and Minority Health. The Center is part of the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD).

Announcement of the grant award from the Department of Health and Human Services was made by Ronald D. Franks, dean of the School of Medicine.

"This \$511,254 grant, to be awarded over a three-year period, will allow the Center to continue to make a significant impact on the delivery of health services to American Indian communities, particularly in Minnesota and Wisconsin. With the help of this sizable grant, we expect to be able to increase the number of American Indian physicians and other health care practitioners in the region," said Franks.

Started in 1972, the program is the oldest of five programs administered by the School's Center of American Indian and Minority

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Health. All of the programs are designed to improve opportunities for American Indians to enter medical fields. The program serves the large population of American Indians in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The NAM program is a multi-campus program. Academically promising, disadvantaged American Indian students are identified and recruited from the University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth, Morris, and Minneapolis as well as Bemidji State University, the Tribal Fond du Lac Community College and the five campus Arrowhead Community College system. The Arrowhead Community College has campuses in Ely, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, International Falls and Virginia.

Promising students are identified and supported through their educational careers, beginning with their primary education in pre-health college programs, through activities that facilitate entry into health professions schools and continuing through the first two years of professional school.

The School's NAM program has identified and supported nearly 30 American Indian physicians during the last 17 years. Other American Indian health professionals produced through NAM have been one dentist, two pharmacists, one podiatrist and eight nurses. The program has also trained two Hispanic physicians.

The NAM program has assisted 403 American Indian students since it began. This fall, three American Indian students are expected to be enrolled at the Medical School.

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