

NEWS RELEASE:

Nov. 13, 2007

On-Call Media Beeper: (828) 444-1149

Pardee recognized as first hospital in the state to become tobacco-free

(Hendersonville, NC) On Nov. 11, Pardee Hospital was recognized by North Carolina Prevention Partners (NCP) for becoming the first hospital in the state to be designated a tobacco-free campus.

Representatives from Pardee Hospital joined dozens of other hospital representatives at the Asheville Renaissance Hotel for the kick-off reception of the NCP Institute, a two-day series of workshops dedicated to providing assistance with compliance to tobacco-free campus policies, offering best practices in hospital-based counseling programs and developing comprehensive approaches to tobacco cessation.

Since Pardee enacted a tobacco-free campus policy in May 2003, approximately 90 additional hospitals have adopted similar policies in the state and many others are in the process of developing policies. All of the regional hospitals, including Mission Hospitals, Haywood Regional Hospital, Park Ridge Hospital, Transylvania Community Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital and Rutherford Community Hospital, either have already adopted, or are in the process of adopting, similar tobacco-free campus policies.

NCP is a statewide non-profit, membership organization dedicated to building effective prevention systems in North Carolina communities and health systems in order to improve the health of all North Carolinians. The organization's mission is "Putting prevention first for a

healthier North Carolina by fostering partnerships for prevention, promoting prevention and influencing policies for prevention.”

Pardee Hospital is a not-for-profit community hospital founded in 1953. The main hospital is licensed for 222 acute care beds and is the second largest employer in Henderson County. The hospital has several locations separate from the main campus, including a 130-bed nursing facility, an adult day services center, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a rehab and wellness center, a midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices, and an urgent care facility. More information is available at www.pardeehospital.org.

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