



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Valerie Briggs

Senior Director, External Communications and Marketing Outreach

Direct: (703) 838-2686

valerie.briggs@ncpanet.org

NCPA Foundation Receives \$750,000 Pledge for the Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition from Good Neighbor Pharmacy®

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Oct. 19, 2009) – The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Foundation is pleased to have received a \$750,000 multi-year pledge from Good Neighbor Pharmacy to grow the NCPA Foundation's Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition endowment to \$1 million.

"I would like to thank Good Neighbor Pharmacy for stepping up with this strong commitment of support," said Sharlea Leatherwood, PD, NCPA Foundation president. "Together, we will secure a promising future for the Competition and continue to cultivate future generations of independent pharmacists. "

"We are excited to support NCPA's efforts to recognize outstanding students of pharmacy. We believe it is essential for pharmacy students to have access to high quality business education, and this program helps provide that," said R. David Yost, President and Chief Executive Officer of AmerisourceBergen Corporation, whose Good Neighbor Pharmacy network made the pledge. "Good Neighbor Pharmacy is proud to encourage students to explore the benefits of a career in community pharmacy through programs such as this real world business case competition."

This is the sixth year the NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition has been held. The 2009 contest drew entries from 29 schools and colleges of pharmacy—nearly one-third of all U.S. pharmacy schools. In 2007, at the NCPA Annual Convention, the NCPA Foundation launched a campaign to grow the endowment to \$1 million dollar. The goal of the endowment will support the annual operating expenses of the NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Completion in perpetuity and therefore sustain its long-term viability.

"With each passing year, the level of interest in independent community pharmacy grows among students," said Holly Whitcomb Henry, PD, NCPA president 2008-09. "Every team of students that participates in the NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition is a winner with a better understanding of the entrepreneurial side of pharmacy and an experience that will benefit them for life."

The NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition is the first national contest of its kind in the pharmacy profession. It is named to honor two champions of independent community pharmacy—the late Neil Pruitt Sr. and H. Joseph Schutte. The competition is supported by the Pruitt and Schutte families, Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company, Covidien (formerly Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals), and the NCPA Foundation.

The **National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Foundation** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1953 to honor former NARD Executive Secretary John W. Dargavel. Contributions to the NCPA Foundation are tax-deductible as charitable donations to the extent permitted under federal tax law. The NCPA Foundation supports the growth and advancement of independent community pharmacy through low-interest educational loans and scholarships to pharmacy students, critical research and programs to improve the success of independent pharmacy, community service programs, and financial assistance to community pharmacy owners for their recovery in the event of disaster, accidents, illness, or adverse circumstances. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.ncpafoundation.org

The **National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)** represents the nation's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 23,000 pharmacies. The nation's independent pharmacies, independent pharmacy franchises, and independent chains represent an \$84 billion marketplace, employ over 300,000 employees and dispense nearly half of the nation's retail prescription medicines. To learn more go to www.ncpanet.org

About Good Neighbor Pharmacy and AmerisourceBergen

Good Neighbor Pharmacy, an AmerisourceBergen program, is a network of more than 3,500 independently owned and operated community pharmacies.

AmerisourceBergen is one of the world's largest pharmaceutical services companies serving the United States, Canada and selected global markets. Servicing both pharmaceutical manufacturers and healthcare providers in the pharmaceutical supply channel, the Company provides drug distribution and related services designed to reduce costs and improve patient outcomes. AmerisourceBergen's service solutions range from pharmacy automation and pharmaceutical packaging to reimbursement and pharmaceutical consulting services. With more than \$70 billion in annual revenue, AmerisourceBergen is headquartered in Valley Forge, PA, and employs approximately 10,000 people. AmerisourceBergen is ranked #26 on the Fortune 500 list. For more information, go to www.amerisourcebergen.com

###