



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Michigan Primary Care Association Communication Director
honored with national advocacy award**

Dana Hughes, Communications Director at the Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA), was awarded the Elizabeth K. Cooke Grassroots Advocacy Award at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policy & Issues Forum held last week in Washington, DC.

Hughes was among 15 recipients honored for legislative and grassroots advocacy work supporting Community Health Centers.

As Communications Director at MPCA, Hughes works closely with Michigan Health Centers helping them spread the word about community involvement and their commitment to excellence in health care. She is also heavily involved with NACHC and works tirelessly to educate the public about the need for and benefit of Community Health Centers as well as fostering relationships with legislators and key policy makers on a state and national level.

Hughes said the award is validation of her mission and passion to educate and advance awareness of Community Health Centers.

“Receiving this award is such an honor,” she said. “Spreading the word that Community Health Centers are THE model for ensuring those most in need have access to quality health care is something I feel very passionate about, and helping people connect with their legislators to voice their opinions and see that they can actually make a difference is so rewarding.”

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Hughes began her work at MPCA in July 2003 and in that time has developed a wealth of resources Health Centers can utilize to promote their mission. She facilitates regular discussions on marketing and effective communications and is a leader in shaping a united and consistent communication strategy for both MPCA and Michigan's Community Health Centers.

MPCA Executive Director Kim Sibilsky said that Hughes' commitment to Health Center Advocacy is apparent in everything she does.

"It was a real thrill to see Dana receive this well deserved award," Sibilsky said. "Not only is she creative and hard working, she is a critical driver of change and innovation in communications in Michigan and the nation.

About Michigan Primary Care Association

Michigan Primary Care Association has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. MPCA's mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan. For more information, please visit www.mpca.net or call 517.381.8000. MPCA is also on Facebook and on Twitter.

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