

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

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### Telecommunications workshop at Nevada Rural Summit

FALLON--The practice of medicine for physicians in farflung rural communities has always been difficult because of isolation from their colleagues. But those isolating distances are shrinking through the use of telemedicine technology. Rural physicians and other medical professionals can learn more about the newest technology at the upcoming Nevada Rural Summit.

The Nevada Rural Summit, which will demonstrate these technologies and discuss other rural issues, will be held Aug. 20-21 at the Fallon Convention Center. A pre-conference workshop, *Telemedicine: A Look at Nevada*, scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 20, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., at the Fallon Convention Center, will look at new ways to use telemedicine in rural Nevada.

Teleradiology services - long distance x-ray interpretation - have been offered in rural Nevada for the past seven years by the Nevada Rural Hospital Project. The University of Nevada School of Medicine now provides links between the Mt. Grant General Hospital physicians and the University of Nevada School of Medicine specialists. This is just the beginning of the services telemedicine technology can provide for rural Nevada, according to Gerald Ackerman, chair of the Task Force.

"We are interested in having workshop participants share ideas on the best ways to use this new technology to benefit rural Nevada and improve access to health care in our communities," Ackerman said.

This workshop is hosted by the Telecommunications Task Force created earlier this year at the state health conference. The Task Force was designed to enhance collaboration between the

Nevada Rural Hospital Project, the University of Nevada School of Medicine and Washoe Medical Center and others across the state, according to Ackerman, of the School of Medicine.

The Summit will include a session, **Rural Health: High Tech and In Touch**" to demonstrate telemedicine's capabilities. For more information on either of these sessions, call Ackerman in Elko, 738-3828, or Bill Welch, president, Nevada Rural Hospital Project in Reno, 827-4770.

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