

## NEWS RELEASE

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### UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



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#### **Med School reaches out to rural communities**

The University of Nevada School of Medicine is now offering rural communities a program to help improve local health care services.

The Nevada CARE (Community Action for Rural Empowerment) program, through the medical school's Center for Education and Health Services Outreach, will help communities develop local solutions to local health care problems. The program, funded through a federal grant, grew out of issues raised at the 1990 Rural Health Care conference, sponsored by the medical school. At that conference, delegates representing most of Nevada's rural communities spent two days developing a blueprint to improve health care in rural Nevada. One of the building blocks of that plan was the need for more community involvement.

"We at the medical school now have the resources in place to help rural communities meet the goals set at the rural health care conference," said Caroline Ford, director of the program.

In other western states, programs like Nevada CARE have helped communities recruit health care professionals, improve emergency medical services and build support for local health care facilities, according to Ford. "The medical school's

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program is based on helping communities build their own networks," she added. "We want to find the 'hidden' leaders in rural communities."

A rural outreach office for the program has been established in Winnemucca. "The program coordinator is a rural resident and brings a unique perspective to the issues of rural health care services," Ford said.

For more information, or to get involved, call Teryl Trowbridge, Community Development Coordinator, in Winnemucca, at 625-2779.