TO MEDIA: CONTACT PERSON: Robin Jennings Marketing and Communications Excela Health 724-689-0206 TEL 724-516-4483 CELL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELECTRONIC PHOTO AVAILABLE (rjennings@excelahealth.org)

Zachary Ankney

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT EXPLORES FAMILY MEDICINE AT EXCELA HEALTH

LATROBE, PA, July 10, 2013 ... Medical student Zachary Ankney is gaining experience in family medicine at Excela Health Latrobe Hospital this summer as a recipient of the Andrew D. Bagby Family Medicine Scholarship. Ankney, a first-year student at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, is participating in a month-long program, training alongside doctors completing Excela Health's Family Medicine Residency Program.

The Bagby Scholarship was established by family and friends in memory of first-year resident Dr. Andrew Bagby, who died tragically in November 2001. The scholarship fund has increased substantially in the 10 years the scholarship has been awarded. It is supported by the Bagby family, as well as private donors, to give opportunities to aspiring family medicine physicians. The scholarship is administered by the Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation.

Prior to enrolling in medical school, Ankney spent hundreds of hours shadowing health care professions in numerous medical specialties in addition to working as an EMT for Citizens Ambulance Service in Indiana County.

Much of his career exploration came as a participant in Conemaugh
Health System's Mentoring in Medicine Program which paired the Somerset
native with specialists in Cambria and Westmoreland counties. Favoring family
medicine, Ankney was accepted into the Physicians Shortage Area Program
(PSAP) at Jefferson. PSAP promotes the development of family physicians to

provide care in rural areas like his home community."The Bagby Scholarship is an opportunity for me to gain more knowledge in family medicine and allow me to explore a residency program affiliated with Thomas Jefferson University not far from my home that has an outstanding reputation."

Ankney believes family medicine can have the greatest impact on a patient's overall health. "Family doctors provide three main services: medical treatments, patient education and social work assistance. The ability to perform these three services to assist with considerable improvements in the lives of many patients is what is motivating me to become a rural family physician."

A graduate of Westmont Hilltop High School, Class of 2004, Ankney has a solid foundation on which to build a medical career. He holds undergraduate degrees in secondary education (social studies and history) from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. "Medical treatment and education go hand-in-hand," he noted. "But there are occasions when patients may need assistance that is outside the expertise of the doctor. In this situation, the family physician plays the role of social worker to find the appropriate services for the patient. Possessing all these skills can help many patients to see a large improvement in their health."

To learn more about the Bagby Scholarship, visit www.excelahealth.org.