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**EXCELA HEALTH'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WELCOMES FOUR NEW MEMBERS**

GREENSBURG, February 8, 2010 ... Excelsa Health's Board of Trustees adds four members to its complement of community leaders governing the Westmoreland County-based health system. The newly elected board members are highly regarded among their peers and widely respected within their areas of expertise. With a shared vision for excellence and quality, they approach this new volunteer service opportunity from vantage points in nursing, higher education, public health, state government, local and global business development, and not-for-profit and organizational leadership.

"We are pleased to have identified four exceptional individuals whose skills deepen the breadth of knowledge and experience already present on the Excelsa board," said Paul Mongell, board chair. "These new trustees recognize the complexities of navigating the challenging and ever changing health care environment on a local, state and global level. They also are personally invested in ensuring access to advanced medical care is available locally."

From the bedside to the board room, **Helen K. Burns, PhD, RN, FAAN**, comes full circle in serving Excelsa Health. A 1971 graduate of the Latrobe Area Hospital School of Nursing, Burns held numerous nursing leadership roles at Latrobe and Westmoreland Hospitals over a 25-year period before moving to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In her role as Director of Community Health Systems for DOH, Burns influenced the creation of the state's health improvement programs, including

Excelsa Health's highly successful Partners Advocating Total Health, which is currently focused on childhood obesity and substance abuse.

In 2000, she became deputy secretary for Health Planning and Assessment, with oversight for the Office of Public Health Preparedness, Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Bureaus of Epidemiology, Laboratories, Health Planning and Community Health Systems. In this capacity, Burns served as lead on matters related to bioterrorism and as executive director of the State Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program. During her tenure, she coordinated the state's system of community health centers and the West Nile Virus Surveillance Program, along with coordinating Pennsylvania's requirement that assures collection of statewide nursing workforce data

A guest lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh during this time, she became Pitt's associate dean for clinical education and associate professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems in 2003.

Burns holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from IUP, and received both master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Pittsburgh in medical/surgical nursing with an emphasis in pulmonary and critical care. In 2008, she was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing.

Demonstrating a lifelong commitment to leadership development, she is a National Public Health Leadership Institute Scholar through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and a participant in programs for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard and Duke Universities.

Burns serves on a number of School of Nursing and university committees. She directs the research dissemination and translation core for the School's Center for Research in Chronic Disorders and has established the school of nursing as a HRSA Center of Excellence for technology. At the state level, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association and co-chairs the Nursing Committee of the PA Center for Health Careers. Nationally, she has been appointed to the US Department of Health and Human Services' National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice.

Burn said of her trustee role: "I am committed to advocate for systems of care and communication that center on patients, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and recognize the essential role of nursing in attaining positive health care outcomes."

James R. Breisinger comes to Excela Health from Kennametal, Inc., where he served as vice president from 1990 through 2007. Throughout his career at Kennametal which spanned nearly 30 years, Breisinger was charged with fiscal management for this global business as corporate controller and later chief financial officer.

In recent years he formed Kennametal's Advanced Materials Solutions Group of which he was president from 2000 to 2005. Prior to his retirement in 2008, he served as president of the Advanced Components Group. He also served as managing director for Kennametal Europe and led the successful integration of Kennametal and Hertel European business operations.

His work in these areas, which has had significant impact on shaping and growing the company globally, contributed to Breisinger's selection for an Alex G. McKenna Award of Excellence. Named in honor of one of Kennametal's founding partners, the award recognizes extraordinary contributions beyond the company's everyday goals.

A business administration graduate of Duquesne University, Breisinger is a certified public accountant. A member of the Financial Executives Institute, he also serves on the Seton Hill University Board of Trustees.

"I am extremely honored to serve as a trustee and to have the opportunity to contribute to the achievement of Excela's vision to be recognized as the best provider of care through the governance role of the board. I look forward to working with the other trustees and believe my independent global perspective and experience in strategy development and implementation, merger integration, as well as financial and general management will be of value to Excela and the board."

Thomas M. Yarabinetz, superintendent of Greensburg Salem School District, brings more than 30 years of administrative experience to the board. Following 12

years in the classroom as a Grade 12 instructor of American Government, Economics and Sociology, he spent five years as assistant principal and director of alternative education. In 1984 he became director of secondary education, human resources and transportation, a position he held until being named superintendent in 1997.

A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, he earned his master's in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He received principal's certification from Duquesne University, and superintendent's certification from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Seton Hill University.

Chair of the Westmoreland County Public Schools Health Consortium, Yarabinecz is a member of the Smart Growth Leadership Advisory Committee for Westmoreland County, as well as the executive committee of Westmoreland Heritage Community Partners. He also served on the Tri-State Executive Committee, the Educational Leadership Initiative Steering Committee and is a member of the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Co-op Drug Free Schools board.

Promoting a culture for learning that improves student achievement, Yarabinecz points to the district's repeated success in exceeding performance standards across the state and nationally.

"Hospitals and schools are important components of a thriving community. It's incumbent on all of us to strive for superiority in both institutions. I hope my experience with Greensburg Salem can be of value in promoting a vision of excellence for Excelsior Health."

Yarabinecz will join the board in July at the conclusion of the 2009-10 school year.

Thomas L. Sochacki offers a unique blend of corporate, entrepreneurial and nonprofit experience to the board. President of the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce since 1994, he also served concurrently as executive director of the Central Westmoreland Development Corporation from 1994 to 2000. In these dual roles, Sochacki has guided the integration of like-minded organizations, thereby increasing operational efficiency as well as expanding governmental influence. While

associated with the CWDC, Sochacki prepared and processed in excess of \$30 million in economic development loans from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as developed, built and sold a 20,000 square foot speculative property.

Early in his career Sochacki worked for Burroughs Wellcome Company as a medical sales representative serving customers in Connecticut and Pennsylvania. In 1977, he purchased then bankrupt General Nuclear Corporation and turned the company into a profitable venture before selling it to a privately held \$200 million company. The successful business owner then established a consulting practice specifically for the development of automated cost accounting procedures for small manufacturing companies.

In 1991 he joined Sony Engineering and Manufacturing Company as finance manager of the new CRT plant in Mount Pleasant. During his time with Sony, he demonstrated his fiscal management prowess, resulting in \$7 million in tax savings on equipment purchases.

Sochacki holds a degree in Industrial Management with an Accounting minor from West Virginia University, and continues his lifelong learning through management and accounting seminars at the University of Pittsburgh and Chamber Institute.

His board memberships include The Westmoreland/Fayette Workforce Investment Board, Westmoreland Heritage Community Partners, ParentWise, United Way and the American Red Cross, both of Westmoreland County. His civic involvement extends to New Stanton Kiwanis, Greensburg Rotary, and Youngwood Recreation, among others.

“We have an important community asset in our health system, and I want to strengthen that community asset,” said Sochacki. “When I talk about health care, it’s not just about my needs, or the needs of my family, but I’m thinking about the business community, and their employees. The chamber deals with many small businesses who find providing health care coverage difficult. While we don’t know where health care reform is going, it’s important to me to help ensure the sustainability of health care in our area.”