



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LIVINGSTON HEALTHCARE RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR
HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE**

Livingston HealthCare has received a Certificate of Healthcare Excellence from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services in recognition of creating a tobacco free medical campus in 2006. This award was presented by Clare Lemke, RN, of the Park County Tobacco Use Prevention Program to Sam Pleshar, Livingston HealthCare CEO, for his leadership in creating a tobacco free campus, which provides a safe and healthy environment for patients, employees, and visitors.

“This has been a very important process for us,” said Pleshar. “We are really committed to the health of our community and we feel that a tobacco free campus is a critical part of that.”

Dr. Steven Helgerson, the State Medical Officer at the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services sent a letter accompanying the award certificate lauding Livingston HealthCare’s achievement. “You have joined an increasing number of medical facilities in Montana that have taken this important step,” Helgerson stated. “Through your leadership on this major public health issue, more Montanans will enjoy improved health and quality of life.”

During the award presentation, Lemke noted that Livingston HealthCare is one of 15 hospitals in Montana that has instituted such a policy, with more slated for 2009. In fact, Lemke said, Livingston HealthCare’s Tobacco-Free Campus model and plan has been used to educate many other Montana hospitals about transitioning to a tobacco-free campus. Many hospitals and health organizations across the nation have also instituted tobacco free policies to address tobacco use, the number one cause of preventable death in the U.S.

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