Philadelphia University To Provide Behavioral Health Education for Health Care Employees Under New Grant

Philadelphia, October 26, 2006 – Philadelphia University will provide educational programs in behavioral health to health care employees working with the mentally ill and mentally retarded as a partner in a $437,000 grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson and Hitachi foundations.

The three-year grant will provide career training and advancement opportunities for at least 48 health care employees working at Temple University Health System and Philadelphia Health Management Corp. The program will enable workers to earn to a 30-credit certificate in Behavioral Health, a 60-credit Associate of Science in Health and Human Services and a 120-credit Bachelor of Science in Behavioral and Health Services from Philadelphia University’s Office of Continuing and Professional Studies.

“We’re pleased to be working with our partners in this grant to provide educational and career opportunities in behavioral and health sciences for health care employees,” said Frank Congdon, director of Philadelphia University’s Office of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Philadelphia University, which has had a successful partnership providing educational programs for District 1199C employees since 2003, will develop the work-based learning curricula for these new programs, train instructors and help create relevant credentials for the programs.

Other partners in the three-year grant project, called the Southeastern Pennsylvania Behavioral Health Initiative – Bridging Jobs to Careers, include the District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, Temple University Health System, Philadelphia Health Management Corp., the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board.

Under the grant, the workplace partners are expected to expand their current career development strategies to train and advance frontline behavioral health workers as follows: create work-based learning curricula; link workers to college courses, credentials, and career ladders, link in-service workshops to college-level academic credit; engage supervisors in the instructional process; create a learner-friendly
environment that supports the worker-students; and participate in statewide and regional workforce development activities.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.