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Tucson, Arizona

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**“El Rio Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Arthur Martinez,
Honored with Pharmacy Appreciation Award”**

El Rio Community Health Center’s chief clinical officer, Arthur M. Martinez, M.D. MSHA will be **recognized tomorrow by the Arizona Pharmacy Alliance (AzPA) and will receive** the 2009 Arizona Pharmacy Appreciation Award.

The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a very special or unique interest and concern for the advancement of Arizona pharmacy as reflected by dedicating significant personal time and effort in completion of special activities or services for AzPA and or the profession of pharmacy.

The award will be formally presented to Dr. Martinez at the AzPA 5th Annual meeting at the Westin La Paloma in Tucson on July 9, 2009 at 6 PM during a VIP reception.

Dr. Martinez is the Chief Clinical officer for El Rio Community Health Center, the 14th largest community health center in the nation with sixteen patient locations, serving over 74,000 patients a year with a team of 700 employees on staff.

Earlier this month, Dr. Martinez and his team were in Washington, D.C. to receive the honored Pinnacle Award which is an national award given by the American Pharmacists Association. El Rio Community Health Center was nominated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the federal agency charged with improving underserved patients’ access to care, and was also named a “best practice” organization. HRSA encourages other health care organizations to model “best practices” for their patients. El Rio was selected because of its innovative Pharmacy based diabetes program.

El Rio has three of only five clinical pharmacists in the state to work directly with patients to manage their diabetes. The clinical pharmacy providers have the ability to prescribe medication

and directly treat patients as they work closely with the primary care physician to monitor patients. **Sandra Leal, Pharm.D D. is the lead clinical pharmacist for the El Rio program and was recently honored as Arizona's 2009 "Pharmacist of the Year" by the Arizona Pharmacy Alliance.**

Now in its 39th year, El Rio Community Health Center is the largest provider in Pima County of medical and dental services to uninsured and Medicaid populations with over 16 patient sites in the Tucson area serving over 74,000 patients in 2008. The El Rio Health Center Foundation was created in 2001 to fund new programs, enhance existing programs and help with capital needs at El Rio Community Health Center. The foundation has now raised in excess of \$5 million. For more information visit www.elriofoundation.org

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