



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Jim Burwitz**

**309-671-8404**

(October 7, 2009) The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) honored faculty, alumni, and community leaders at the 2009 Celebration of Excellence. The event was held at UICOMP's main campus building in downtown Peoria and featured the winners of this year's Community Health Awards:

- Dr. William Albers—Honored for his years of service as a pediatric cardiologist and his ongoing commitment to community health
- Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Peoria Memorial Affiliate—Honored for leadership and groundbreaking achievements in the fight against breast cancer

Established in 1996, UICOMP's Community Health Awards are presented annually for special contributions in the areas of patient care, health-support services, medical education and research, wellness programs, and disease prevention. Separate awards are given to an individual and an organization.

UICOMP's Celebration of Excellence recognized 43 faculty members for outstanding commitment to medical education, including Dr. James DeBord, who received the 2009 Faculty of the Year Award. Additional honorees included the Peoria Medical Alumni Council, the Dean's Community Associates Council, and contributors to special projects such as UICOMP's ongoing "Living Healthy" series.

The Celebration of Excellence was hosted by Dr. Sara Rusch, Regional Dean, Dr. Carol Packard, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Dr. John Halvorsen, Thomas and Ellen Foster Professor and Chair for the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

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