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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NAMES
LOCAL FINANCIAL AID EXECUTIVE
TO SERVE ON REGULATORY COMMITTEE FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT**
*Michigan-based Ross Medical Education Center Will Represent
Proprietary Allied Health Schools in Washington D.C.*

St. Clair, MI – Ms. Sandy Tallman, Executive Vice President – Financial Aid Services/Compliance from Ross Medical Education Center, headquartered in St. Clair, MI, has been selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a non-federal negotiator on a negotiated rulemaking committee. This committee will meet in Washington, D.C. to propose new regulations for the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA). The HEOA (Public Law 110-315) was enacted on August 14, 2008 and reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

The Department of Education selects committee members that best represent students who could be significantly affected by proposed regulations. Each committee also includes a member from the Department. The Department of Education is required by law to use negotiated rulemaking as authorized under Title IV of the HEA of 1965, as amended, unless deemed by the Secretary as unnecessary, contrary to the public interest or impracticable.

Over the next few months, Tallman will participate in one of five rulemaking committees that will discuss issues critical to the Title IV – Student Assistance provisions of the HEOA, including: accreditation, loan programs, lending issues and grants. These groups will also tackle specific issues outside of lending, such as peer-to-peer file sharing/copyrighted material and campus safety.

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With 28 years of experience in the financial aid arena, Tallman said, “As someone who has seen dramatic changes in the rules of financial aid over the years, I’m proud to represent allied health schools and Ross in this process. I know that the decisions made here will ultimately affect students in the years to come.”

Tallman was nominated by the **H**igher **E**ducation **A**llied Health **L**eaders (HEAL) Coalition, a D.C.-based organization that educates policy-makers about the impact of allied health workers nationwide, and works to ensure equality between proprietary allied health institutions and traditional schools. “HEAL is a major advocate of year-round Pell Grants, one of the key topics the rulemaking committee will examine,” said Tom E. Netting, Executive Director. Year-round Pell Grants will enable non-traditional schools, like Ross Medical Education Center, to help meet the growing demand for allied health care workers, one that traditional schools alone cannot meet alone.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that allied health careers are on the rise (<http://www.bls.gov>). The BLS forecasts that by 2016, there will be a combined 230,000 new jobs in the fields of dental and medical assisting, representing a 29% increase for dental assistants¹ and a 35% increase for medical assistants².

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About Ross Medical Education Center

Since 1976, Ross Medical Education Center had dedicated itself to providing a quality curriculum that meets the needs of every student in our health training schools. Ross has 14 locations throughout Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. All of its schools are accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. More information can be found at www.rossmedicaleducation.com or by calling toll-free, (800) 833-7677.

¹ <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos163.htm>

² <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos164.htm>