

City of Chicago Department of Community Development to Implement Citywide Program to Enhance Skills of Healthcare Incumbent Workers

(Louisville, KY)--- Catalyst Learning Company (CLC) has received a contract from SERCO, Inc. (SER) and the Chicago Department of Community Development (DCD) to provide the School at Work® (SAW) "Building a Career Ladder in Healthcare" program to 12 Chicago-area hospitals. SAW prepares entry-level employees in healthcare for advanced positions and for enrollment in local community colleges and technical schools. The program provides front-line, incumbent healthcare workers with the education, skills and confidence to advance in their careers, opening up opportunities for new entry-level workers.

"In 2008, CLC implemented SAW at Saint Anthony's Community Hospital on Chicago's near-southwest side. Based on the strength of those results and input from the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, DCD will fund the implementation of SAW for 120-150 healthcare employees. This program bridges the gap between the initial skills individuals have and those they need to succeed in their careers," said David Hanson, Executive Director of DCD's Business Development Services unit.

Participating hospitals in the SAW project are: Advocate South Suburban, Children's Memorial Medical Center, Sinai Health System, Norwegian-American Hospital, Our Lady of the Resurrection, Resurrection Medical Center, Roseland Community Hospital, South Shore Hospital, Saint Anthony Hospital, St. James Hospital and Health Centers, Swedish Covenant Hospital, and University of Chicago Medical Center.

"This Chicago project affects the most residents in an urban area in SAW's history. With leadership from the City of Chicago and SER, SAW will foster economic vitality in Chicago by strengthening participating hospitals, their employees, and the neighborhoods they serve," says Lynn Fischer, CLC CEO and Founder.

About Catalyst Learning

Catalyst Learning Company, a healthcare workforce development company based in Louisville, Ky., is the provider of School at Work®, Expanding your Career and Healthcare Opportunities™ and CareerCare®. SAW and ECHO are career development systems for entry and mid-level employees. The programs use a blended learning model, involving Internet and DVD technology, peer discussion and personal coaching. CareerCare is a web-based career planning tool designed exclusively for the healthcare industry.