AT ISSUE TODAY:

To ensure the U.S. health care system is the most modern, innovative and effective in the world requires investments that seek to develop a next-generation workforce. Shortages in primary care providers, particularly in rural areas, are contributing to a health care system that continues to struggle to provide access to high-quality, culturally competent, cost-effective care where and when individuals need it. In addition, barriers to sharing secure, actionable data hinder the health system’s ability to provide modern, innovative and connected health care. Building a modern, simpler, high performing health care system requires a 21st century health care workforce ready to address the needs of our diverse population.

THE SOLUTION: INVESTING IN A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

We combine our knowledge, experience and compassion to help improve the health of the communities where we work and live. Through our people and our partners, we support initiatives that improve health quality and outcomes today, to meet the needs of tomorrow.

EXAMPLES OF HOW THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM IS UNDER STRAIN

- 20 million people have gained access to health care since 2010[1]
- By 2030, 29% more people will be living with chronic conditions[2]
- Today in the U.S., one in five live where there’s a shortage of primary care providers[3]
- By 2020, there will be a shortage of over 20,000 primary care physicians[4]

SOME OF THE WAYS WE INVEST

- Aligning scope of practice guidelines for Nurse Practitioners and other clinicians to the highest level to expand delivery system capacity
- Funding recruiting and loan forgiveness
- And other incentive programs in underserved areas and specialties to foster local talent and redistrubute existing clinician capacity

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

United Health Foundation Diverse Scholars Initiative

The Diverse Scholars Initiative, a program sponsored by United Health Foundation, works to increase the number of primary care health providers through grants and scholarships to medical students in underserved communities and provides a diverse perspective to help enhance communication, health care access, patient satisfaction, decreased health disparities and improved problem solving. The program was launched in 2007. United Health Foundation has provided more than $36 million in assistance and funded nearly 2,100 scholarships.

United Health Foundation Grant to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine

As part of their broad effort to increase access to care, United Health Foundation provided a $13 million dollar grant to University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine in support of the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) model. The 18-month program allows students to experience firsthand the specialties of family internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and surgery working with the same patients for an extended period of time replacing traditional curriculum and block rotation models.

LEVERAGING BUSINESS CAPABILITIES

Ensuring that the health care system is the most modern, innovative and effective in the world requires targeted investments to attract, train and equip the next generation of health workers. UnitedHealth Group is committed to helping today’s — and tomorrow’s — health care leaders enhance their skills through meaningful professional development opportunities.

Optum Technology Development Program (TDP)

The Technology Development Program provides opportunities for emerging technologists to contribute their talents to help make the health care system work better for everyone. Since 2010, TDP has hired nearly 3,500 students from all over the world for internships and full-time rotational programs. TDP also partners with top universities in research, professional education, teaching and curriculum development.

Center for Clinician Advancement

The Center is committed to enhancing the clinician’s practice by providing process and structure to empower our 30,000+ clinicians to extend their personal and professional talents to operate as change agents for the company and improve the health care experience for consumers and customers.

ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS

Both states and the federal government can implement actionable solutions for creating a 21st century health workforce that’s prepared to deliver high-quality, innovative care for all Americans. These solutions include:

- Aligning scope of practice guidelines for Nurse Practitioners and other clinicians to the highest level to expand delivery system capacity
- Funding recruiting and loan forgiveness
- And other incentive programs in underserved areas and specialties to foster local talent and redistribute existing clinician capacity