FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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No Starting Over for Working Adults:
Three College Credits for Human Touch Healthcare™ from Futuro Health

Recognition supports national push to reach 75% credential attainment by 2040
and advances "no wrong door" pathways for adult learners

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Futuro Health Scholars now have a new pathway to turn healthcare workforce training into college credit, creating an opportunity for working adults to receive recognition for skills gained through healthcare workforce training, advancing economic and career mobility.

The American Council on Education (ACE) has recommended Futuro Health's Human Touch Healthcare™ coursework for the equivalent of three semester hours of college credit. The proprietary course builds interpersonal skills essential to allied health careers. The designation provides Futuro Health Scholars with a potential pathway to apply prior learning toward a college degree or advanced credential, helping save time and tuition as they continue their education. Futuro Health Scholars average 31 years of age, and many have been out of the classroom for years. They earn healthcare credentials debt-free through Futuro Health's learner-centered education journeys and intensive wraparound support.

More than 12,000 adults have completed Human Touch Healthcare™ since Futuro Health's launch, including nearly 1,000 residents of rural and medically underserved areas facing healthcare workforce shortages. The coursework develops six essential interpersonal competencies: empathy and compassion, cultural competence, effective communication, emotional intelligence, teamwork and collaboration, and ethics and integrity. These human-centered skills are increasingly important as AI and automation transform healthcare and as the need for meaningful human connection in care grows.

This quality recommendation from ACE recognizes the college-level value of Human Touch Healthcare™ coursework and comes as policymakers, educators and workforce leaders seek to increase the share of working-age adults with a degree or industry-valued credential from 65% today to 75% by 2040, as outlined in Lumina Foundation's Goal 2040: A Stronger Nation and a Brighter Future.

"Futuro Health demonstrates what's possible when systems are designed for adult learners from every community," said Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of Lumina Foundation. "Continued collective action like this is essential to expanding economic mobility nationwide."

(more)

Credit for prior learning (CPL) practices, including this latest ACE recognition for Futuro Health, help colleges and universities recognize learning completed outside their classrooms and create clearer pathways for adults to continue their education. Futuro Health is advancing that work through its participation in the Mapping Articulation Pathways (MAP) initiative, funded by Riverside Community College District with the California Community Colleges. MAP's "no wrong door" approach is designed to help adults build on what they have already learned as they advance their education, skills and careers. Through the initiative, Futuro Health brings a network of 48 education partners across 146 campuses nationwide, helping connect working learners with public degree-granting institutions.

With an aging nation that needs more care and more caregivers, healthcare remains a major source of job growth. McKinsey & Company's economic mobility framework describes Gateway Jobs as bridge roles that can help workers advance toward higher-wage Destination Jobs. In healthcare, roles such as medical assistant, emergency medical technician, and pharmacy technician can provide an entry point into the field, while careers such as nursing offer aspirational advancement with additional education. Credit for prior learning practices, like the ACE recommendation, adds another potential building block for Futuro Health Scholars who choose to continue their education.

"This is much bigger than three college credits," said Van Ton-Quinlivan, CEO of Futuro Health. "ACE's recognition validates what our Scholars learn which means working adults do not have to start over. When colleges count that learning, adults save precious time and tuition on their way to a degree."

Futuro Health invites potential partners to contact partnership@futurohealth.org

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About Futuro Health

Futuro Health is a national nonprofit organization addressing the critical shortage of healthcare workers by growing the largest network of allied health workers in the nation. The organization empowers individuals with credentials and qualifications for their first or next healthcare career while building the talent employers need and creating pathways to opportunity for workers. Learn more at www.FuturoHealth.org.