For Immediate Release

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AMN Healthcare’s Merritt Hawkins Announces 2010 Pro Bono Physician Search
Firm Will Find a Doctor for an Underserved Area, Waiving Its Fees

IRVING, TX, March 29, 2011 – Merritt Hawkins, the leading physician search firm in the United States and a company of AMN Healthcare, has announced a new pro bono physician search program in which it will find a doctor for a medically underserved area, waiving its professional fees.

Under this unique program – believed to be the only one of its kind in the country -- Merritt Hawkins will conduct a full service physician search for a medical facility in critical need of a physician. Services will include an on-site opportunity evaluation, consulting on contractual and incentive issues, candidate sourcing, screening, and interviewing. Merritt Hawkins has agreed to waive its professional fees on the search. Executives with the firm indicate the pro bono program is intended to assist communities struggling to find physicians and to highlight a growing national problem.

“The doctor shortage is reaching crisis proportions,” notes Mark Smith, president of Merritt Hawkins. “Our goal is to bring some relief to a medically underserved area while underscoring the struggle many communities have finding a physician.”

Smith says Merritt Hawkins’ pro bono physician search is open to any hospital with a critical need for a physician that has been unable to find a doctor on its own. Hospitals will be asked to complete an application for the search using a form that can be downloaded from Merritt Hawkins’ web site. Click here for the form. All applications will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of Merritt Hawkins’ executives, as well as health care leaders and other industry experts. Three finalists will be chosen based on the severity of their need for a physician, the time they have been seeking a doctor, the resources they are able to commit to physician recruiting, and the impact that a lack of physician services has had on the community. One of the finalists will be chosen for the program, pending an on-site interview.

“When a community lacks a doctor, there is a domino effect,” Smith observes. “Families leave and it is hard to attract new business. We hope to help one community reverse this trend and to highlight what the doctor shortage means to others.”
Applications for Merritt Hawkins’ 2011 pro bono physician search are due by August 15, 2011. Those seeking more information about the program may call Merritt Hawkins at 800-876-0500.

ABOUT MERRITT HAWKINS

Merritt Hawkins is the largest physician search and consulting firm in the United States and is a company of AMN Healthcare, the nation's largest provider of comprehensive healthcare staffing and workforce solutions.

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