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Representatives Perales, Hackett Participate in Healthcare Forum

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University School of Pharmacy will host a policy forum on healthcare legislation with State Representatives Rick Perales and Bob Hackett along with Antonio Ciaccia, director of government and public affairs from the Ohio Pharmacist Association. The event, open to the public, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5, in the Health Sciences Center in Room 107 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

This event will allow students to interact with representatives on legislative issues related to pharmacy. Currently the topics set in place for the forum are: student involvement, advocacy and communication with legislators, health care reform, Provider Status for pharmacists, the role of a pharmacist in the changing health care environment and collaborative practice agreements between pharmacists and physicians.

“Our goal is to have [the representatives] address specific pharmacy legislation but also to give students an opportunity to directly ask questions and interact with lawmakers,” Jordan Nicholls, a third-year professional pharmacy student from Beavercreek, Ohio, said.

Nicholls said this event was created to encourage students to participate in policy making. Over the past several years, Nicholls and other Cedarville students have traveled to Columbus, Ohio, to meet with legislators at the statehouse as they discuss health care legislation.

“This was a great experience to be on the front lines of advocating for the profession of pharmacy by educating lawmakers on what pharmacists are trained to do and what we are
capable of,” Nicholls said. “Advocacy is especially important now because of the many changes taking place in health care.”

Nicholls believes now is the time for students to get involved in health care policy, so that they can have their voice heard and make a difference.

“If we are not at the table to discuss policy and our profession with lawmakers, someone else will,” Nicholls said. “Their willingness to speak and interact with us is truly exciting and something that I hope will motivate the students to be active throughout their professional careers.”

While this event is specifically geared toward pre-pharmacy and professional pharmacy students, it is also open to the public.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,620 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings.