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**NCHL HONORS GAIL WARDEN WITH  
NAMING OF LEADERSHIP AWARD**

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CHICAGO, Nov. 16, 2009 -- The National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) announced today that its annual award has been named *The Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award* in honor of Gail L. Warden, founding chairman of the NCHL Board, Chairman Emeritus of Henry Ford Health System and one of healthcare's foremost leaders.

"Gail has truly been a force for change in healthcare and in mentoring future generations. Naming this prestigious award in his honor is an enduring tribute," NCHL President and CEO Marie E. Sinioris said. "With healthcare reform at center stage in our country, we are pleased to recognize Gail's remarkable accomplishments as an innovator in healthcare delivery, community wellness, and health policy and his lasting legacy of leadership."

NCHL introduced its healthcare leadership award in 2005. Denis A. Cortese, MD, President and CEO of Mayo Clinic is its first recipient under its new name; it was presented to him at NCHL's Leadership Award Dinner on November 4, 2009. *The Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award* is given annually to individuals who exemplify NCHL's mission to identify and mentor future generations of healthcare leaders toward the goal of transforming organizational performance and improving healthcare in the U.S.

The following organizations contributed support for the naming of the *Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award*: American Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Greater New York Hospital Association,

Health Management Academy, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, National Quality Forum, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

### **About National Center for Healthcare Leadership**

The National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) is a not-for-profit organization that is an industry catalyst to assure the availability of accountable and transformational healthcare leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Its vision is to optimize the health of the public through leadership and organizational excellence. As the authoritative and objective source on healthcare leadership, NCHL conducts research on global best practices and tests new models for leadership excellence within its Leadership Excellence Networks. It provides innovative leadership development programs through the NCHL and GE Institute for Transformational Leadership. For more information, please visit NCHL's website at [www.nchl.org](http://www.nchl.org).

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