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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **R-AHEC to hold Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony & Community Open House**

**Warsaw, NY (May 3, 2019)** – Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is pleased to announce that it will hold a Ribbon-Cutting ceremony and community open house for its renovations and upgrades to the William F. Thiel Hospitality House at 2:00pm on May 15, 2019.

“We’re happy to introduce our latest accomplishments to the community and those who helped bring this project to fruition,” said Catherine P. Huff, CEO. “The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Thiel Hospitality House marks the launch of our renovated state of the art, remodeled, and comfortable accommodations to guests and visitors.”

Scott Gardner, President of the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, is scheduled to be on hand to offer a few remarks regarding the project and to assist in leading the ribbon-cutting.

“We’re also delighted to have representatives present from the area foundations who will be joining us in our celebration. Our dream of remodeling, upgrading and making the necessary repairs to this facility was made possible in part by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, John R. Oishei Foundation and the Garman Family Foundation” said David R. Riddell, Director of Operations for R-AHEC.

The construction for the project was performed by the general contractor Whitney East Construction from Rochester NY, and the architects from In. Site: Architecture from Perry NY.

R-AHEC owns and operates the William F. Thiel Hospitality House located behind the Wyoming County Community Hospital. The mission of R-AHEC is to improve health and healthcare through education. The House was originally constructed and opened for guests in 2005. The House primarily provides individuals or families facing a health care crisis and on-call or visiting medical professionals (short- and long-term stays). In addition, half the house is committed for use by health professions and medical students performing rural clinical rotations in Wyoming County with the goal that they will consider serving a medically underserved area/population upon graduation. According to Health Resources

Services Administration (HRSA) Wyoming County is considered a medically underserved/population area in New York State.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will begin at 2:00pm and the open house will follow until 4:00pm on R-AHEC's campus located at 20 Duncan Street, Warsaw NY, 14569. The community is invited to attend. For more information call 585-786-6275.

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*R-AHEC was formed in 1999 as a non-profit organization, serving a 12-county region of Western New York. Its mission is "to improve health and healthcare through education." R-AHEC focuses on Health Workforce Development; Preceptor Development/Student Housing; Pipeline Programming; and Rural Healthcare Technology Infrastructure Development. In addition, R-AHEC operates the Western NY Rural Broadband Healthcare Network (RBHN), providing subsidies to non-profit healthcare facilities through a point to point fiber optic network. For more information, visit R-AHEC's website at [www.r-ahec.org](http://www.r-ahec.org) or the RBHN at [www.wnyrbhn.org](http://www.wnyrbhn.org).*