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### For immediate release

#### **Bloomfield Township Fire Department and Oakland Community College Fire Training Win Leland Gayheart Prevention Awards**

Winners of the Leland Gayheart Fire Safety and Prevention Awards this year are Bloomfield Township Fire Department and Oakland Community College Fire Training.

“This award is near to our hearts because it enables us to recognize the amazing work our fire services colleagues do to increase the safety of our communities,” said Karla Klas, BSN, RN, CCRP, Injury Prevention Education Specialist at the Trauma Burn Center.

Bloomfield Township Fire Department won for its fire and injury prevention program targeted to second graders. “Fire Safety and Injury Prevention—Risk Watch” was first developed for children by the National Fire Protection Association and then enhanced by Bloomfield Township’s Fire Department. The program teaches children the importance of practicing safety including fire and burn prevention, practicing fire escape plans, motor vehicle safety, and bike and pedestrian safety. Results from pre- and post-testing show that the students retain a great deal of their safety knowledge.

Oakland Community College Fire Training won for their Flashover Survival Training Program. Flashover develops rapidly with little warning and can catch firefighters off guard. It is the fire stage when contents are heated to their ignition temperatures and flames break out almost at once over all surfaces. The program teaches firefighters the recognition of an imminent flashover and flashover delaying techniques so they can have those few extra seconds to retreat to a safe haven. The training unit is portable so they can provide this important safety education to all regions of Michigan.

Each year, the Trauma Burn Center (TBC) and the Gayheart family support the work of Michigan fire fighters by presenting the prestigious Leland Gayheart Fire Safety and Prevention Award. This award is made possible through the generosity of the Gayheart family.

Leland Gayheart was a 23-year-old firefighter who lost his life in 1991 due to a devastating burn injury. As a tribute, the Leland Gayheart Prevention Award was created to encourage prevention programs within Michigan fire departments. An honorarium is awarded annually to the fire department whose innovative efforts have demonstrated a citywide, countywide or statewide impact on prevention and fire safety.

The award was not presented in 2007, so the TBC and Gayheart family were able to recognize both of these outstanding organizations this year,” said Klas.

*The University of Michigan Hospital Trauma Burn Center (TBC) is an internationally recognized leader in patient care, research and rehabilitation. The TBC is verified as both a Burn Center and a Level-1 Trauma Center. Its programs address preventable injuries to children, adolescents and adults as well as the medical and social consequences of injury and disability. The TBC is committed to community education on prevention, consequences and treatment of traumatic injury.*

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