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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC. 8, 2005

**HWTF Honors Community Champions with
2005 *Distinguished Service Award in Preventive Health***

Dr. Robert Schwartz receives *Leadership Award*

RALEIGH, NC – Proven and innovative approaches make preventive health a priority. It is this kind of commitment that has earned Dr. Robert Schwartz the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund's (HWTF) inaugural *Distinguished Service Award in Preventive Health*. Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, who serves as HWTF chair, presented Dr. Schwartz with the *Leadership Award* on Dec. 6 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

"Dr. Schwartz is one of the nation's leading proponents of healthy lifestyles," said Lt. Gov. Perdue. "For years, he has been a leading proponent of healthy eating and proper exercise, both of which he models faithfully. He has tirelessly sought to improve the health of children and youth by advocating for better nutrition."

Dr. Schwartz is one of the key players instrumental in helping the American Academy of Pediatrics address the childhood obesity epidemic nationwide. He has worked to help make people aware of the problems of poor nutrition in our nation's school lunchrooms. He is a professor of Pediatrics and Chief of Pediatric Endocrinology at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Dr. Schwartz's research includes a *Healthy Lifestyles Study* on obesity prevention in young children with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control. In 2002, he received the *Denny, Katz, Simon, Tinglestad Academic Service Award*.

As a member and advisor to HWTF's *Fit Families NC: A Study Committee for Childhood Overweight/Obesity*, Dr. Schwartz was instrumental in guiding the committee in understanding the impact of eating habits, school-based food services and high caloric foods on the health of children.

The new *Distinguished Service in Preventive Health Awards* were created to recognize North Carolina's top community leaders who have demonstrated a tireless commitment to the health and wellness of North Carolina's residents. These recipients represent various professions including education, government, medicine, business and philanthropy. This year, 11 individuals from across the state received this high honor from Lt. Gov. Perdue and the HWTF.

ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND:

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF invests in programs and partnerships related to teen tobacco use, prescription drugs, childhood obesity and health disparities. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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