

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Local Doctor Graduates from Pioneering Integrative Medicine Program**

**(RENO, NV)** --- After two years of intensive training in areas including botanical medicine, mind-body interactions and nutrition, Dr. Christi Bonds has completed her Fellowship in Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona. Launched in the summer of 2000 by internationally-recognized integrative medicine pioneer Andrew Weil, MD, the Program in Integrative Medicine Fellowship combines residential sessions in Tucson with a "distributed learning" model in which participants learn via the Internet, in the comfort of their own home or office. Bonds, a board certified Family Practitioner in Reno, joined 60 other physicians and nurse-practitioners from all over the world in a graduation ceremony December 8, 2006, in Tucson, Arizona.

"Dr. Bonds has received the best training available in integrative medicine," stated Dr. Andrew Weil. "I consider her fully prepared to go out in the world and help transform the practice of medicine and healthcare in the directions consumers want," he concluded.

The program, which includes 1,000 hours of instruction, emphasizes clinical applications and collaboration to establish a broad knowledge base that will transfer into clinical practice. The curriculum utilizes patient simulations, collaborative dialogues, research updates and dialogues, problem-solving exercises, selected readings, group projects, and presentations. The focus is on the practical application of approaches that have scientific evidence and/or a history of traditional use. Methods of healing are explored, and physicians gain the ability to discuss these areas with both their patients and the practitioners of these disciplines. Associate Fellows explore the Art of Medicine, Philosophy of Medicine, Medicine and Culture, Mind-Body Interactions, Nutrition, Botanicals, Physical Activity, Spirituality, Leadership, and Legal Issues.

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*Integrative Medicine is healing-oriented medicine that takes account of the whole person (body, mind, and spirit), including all aspects of lifestyle. It emphasizes the therapeutic relationship and makes use of all appropriate therapies, both conventional and alternative. The mission of the Program in Integrative Medicine is to lead the transformation of healthcare by creating, educating, and actively supporting a community of professionals who embody the philosophy and practice of Integrative Medicine. For more information on the University of Arizona Program in Integrative Medicine, please visit: [www.integrativemedicine.arizona.edu](http://www.integrativemedicine.arizona.edu)*