

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2011

For More Information, contact:

Shane Kovac, Media Relations Manager, (816) 404-3786

**American Hospital Association Chair John W. Bluford
Receives 36th Kellogg School of Management – Health Enterprise
Management Program Laura G. Jackson Award**

Chicago, Ill — Today, during the 2011 Kellogg School of Management - Health Enterprise Management Program Malcolm T. MacEachern, M.D., Symposium, American Hospital Association Chair and Truman Medical Centers (TMC) President and CEO John W. Bluford received the 36th Laura G. Jackson Award for exceptional leadership in the healthcare industry. This award is the Kellogg Health Enterprise Management Alumni Association's top achievement award and recognizes outstanding Kellogg graduates in the healthcare field. The award was last given in 2003 to Harry M. Jansen Kraemer, Jr., former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Baxter International, Inc.

John W. Bluford began his career in 1972 as the evening administrator at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. He served for 21 years in various leadership capacities at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, including the last six as its CEO.

For the past twelve years, he has served as TMC President/CEO in Kansas City, Missouri. Among the accomplishments Bluford is most proud of in his career, is helping to change the culture of the organizations he has led to become more customer service and patient safety-oriented and more innovative. Above all, Bluford has succeeded at transforming the hospitals he has led into hospitals of first choice for patients, employees and community partnerships.

Bluford is a nationally known healthcare innovator who has been recognized by *Modern Healthcare* as one of the Most Influential People in Healthcare. In 2011, the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees elected Bluford as Chairman of the Board following several years of service on various committees with the association. During his year long tenure as chair, Bluford calls upon hospitals across the nation to embrace the special role they play in the overall health of their respective communities. The goal is to reduce the disparities that the underserved have faced in regards to access to quality care and to work towards bringing about a cultural change in healthcare by focusing more on health, wellness and prevention than reactive medicine and disease treatment. Bluford feels that hospitals, because of their vital roles in the community, must branch out from their campuses into the community to provide direct and personal care, education and treatment to those who need it most. He also stresses the importance of healthcare

professionals leading by example and working to improve their own health.

In addition to his role as TMC President/CEO and Chair of the AHA, Bluford serves on the Board of the National Association of Public Hospitals, H&R Block, Fisk University, Morehouse School of Medicine and DeCare International and is the past chair of the National Association of Public Hospitals, Missouri Hospital Association and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Bluford is a 1975 MBA graduate of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management in Evanston, Illinois and earned a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee in 1971.

About Malcolm T. MacEachern, M.D., and the Laura G. Jackson Award

Malcolm T. MacEachern, M.D. was a legendary figure in healthcare management and in the drive to improve the standards of quality in medical care delivery. Dr. MacEachern also devoted himself to training students in the hospital administration program (now Kellogg's Health Enterprise Management Program), which he founded in 1943 at Northwestern, the oldest accredited program in the nation and the first to establish itself in a business school. Dr. MacEachern traveled extensively across the globe and Laura G. Jackson was his assistant and acted as chief operating officer and researcher of the program. When he died in 1956, Jackson became head of the hospital administration program at Northwestern until she retired a few years later. Her hard work and dedication to students and their welfare prompted the Health Enterprise Management Alumni Association to name their career achievement award after her.

About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes more than 5,000 member hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 38,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends.

About TMC

Truman Medical Centers is a not-for-profit two acute-care hospital health system in Kansas City. The TMC Health System includes TMC Hospital Hill, TMC Lakewood, TMC Behavioral Health, the Jackson County Health Department and a number of primary care practices throughout Eastern Jackson County. Recently named one of the nation's top academic medical centers, TMC is the primary teaching hospital for the University of Missouri-Kansas City Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing and specializes in asthma, bariatrics, diabetes, women's health, and trauma services. For more information, please call (816) 404-3785 or visit **www.trumed.org**