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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Milestones in African American Healthcare to be Recognized with
New Sign on the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail**

Champaign, IL—The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail and the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation will unveil the 23rd trail sign in downtown Champaign at 29 E. Main St. on Wednesday, August 27, at 11:00 a.m. **Media are encouraged to attend.**

This sign celebrates Dr. Henry E. Rowan, the first African American doctor to practice in Champaign-Urbana who arrived in the area in 1914 and had an office on Walnut St. in downtown Champaign. Dr. Henry (Harry) D. Ellis, was the second African American doctor in Champaign-Urbana, who attended the University of Illinois School of Medicine after returning from serving in the 370th Infantry in World War I. The sign also recognizes Black female health workers, including Vivian Grundy, the first African American allowed in a local nursing program in 1952.

Clinics that served community members are also recognized, including the North End Health Center, which later became the Frances Nelson Health Center in honor of the woman who provided care and housing to homeless African American children in the 1940s.

This sign is generously sponsored by Carle Health.

“At Carle Health, we believe every community member deserves the right to improve their health and receive high-quality and equitable care. We are committed to being a leader toward this effort and to help apply learnings from what the history of the healthcare field has taught us,” Jaymie Green, MSN, RN, Patient Care vice president and Carle Foundation Hospital chief nursing officer, said. “It’s our privilege to help recognize those who were foundational to building a more inclusive care experience both in our community and beyond as we strive to emulate their example today.”

This sign marks a major milestone, the completion of Phase 1 of the trail’s development. As we look ahead to Phase 2, we’ll continue exploring additional sign locations as new research is completed and funding is secured to expand trail programming.

About the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation

The Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, generates resources that support the destination experiences of people who visit, work, and live in the greater Champaign County area. For more information: <https://experiencecu.org/foundation>

About the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail

The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail is a celebration of the lives and contributions of African Americans in the Champaign County area. The mission is to educate today’s residents and visitors about the rich cultural history of a people whose stories have been largely unrecognized, but who directly shaped the place we call home. For more information: <https://www.ccafricanamericanheritage.org/>



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