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CONTACT:

Samantha White
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
(512) 329-8666 ext. 116
swhite@tafp.org

Celia B. Neavel, MD, FSAHM, FAAFP, named 2024 Texas Family Physician of the Year

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS — Celia B. Neavel, MD, FSAHM, FAAFP, of Austin, Texas, has been awarded the highest honor among Texas family doctors by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. She was named the 2024 Texas Family Physician of the Year during TAFP’s Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in The Woodlands on Nov. 9. Each year, patients and physicians nominate extraordinary family physicians throughout Texas who symbolize excellence and dedication in family medicine. A panel of TAFP members chooses one as the family physician of the year.

In 1993 Neavel founded the Center for Adolescent Health at People’s Community Clinic in Austin. Long before the concepts were widely recognized, she built this program to utilize a team-based, holistic approach to care, empowering adolescents to take their health into their own hands. She cultivated relationships with community organizations along the way, developed a Youth Advisory Council to include adolescent voices, and pursued grants that have enabled the Center to grow and provide cutting edge, evidence-based care.

Neavel has worked for decades to create a safe space for vulnerable patients who don’t have other safe options to run to. She is quick to credit her teams and colleagues, making it difficult to see the extent of her body of work without looking at her full resume.

Neavel’s nominator and colleague, Feba Thomas, MD, called her a force of nature, saying that “Her impact on generations of patients and physicians will continue to be felt for years to come. Her vision has guided not just the People’s Community Clinic Center for Adolescent Health, but many organizations in Texas and across the nation. She embodies what it is to be a family physician.”

Neavel is the director of the Center for Adolescent Health at People’s Community Clinic, where she also founded and directs the GOALS program, a developmental behavioral primary care program for students. She is also faculty at Texas A&M’s School of Medicine and the Department of Population Health at Dell Medical School.

Family physicians like Neavel are qualified to work in all major medical areas and trained to treat more than 90% of all cases they encounter. Family physicians care for patients of all ages.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education, and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.