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**January 30, 2019**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Department of Public Health Transforms for International Open House**

**EL PASO, Texas** – The Department of Public Health (DPH) invites the public to learn more about the department during the annual International Open House on Thursday, February 7, at 5115 El Paso Drive from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The DPH will transport visitors “around the world” with more than a dozen public health programs and initiatives representing various countries and cultures as employees celebrate the department’s 11<sup>th</sup> year in existence.

“The Medicaid Waiver Program is depicting China, and as a Health Education and Prevention Specialist I hope to raise awareness of some of our similarities and differences in the realm of public health,” said Monica Leal. “The community is probably not aware that socio-economic status can predict poor health outcomes when it comes to underprivileged children in the US, but it is often the exact opposite in China, where greater wealth often means higher rates of obesity and diabetes.”

The event will culminate with the presentation of the annual Pillars of Public Health Award Ceremony at 4:00 p.m. These awards are given every year to various members of our community who reflect the strength and momentum that is created when individuals and organizations commit themselves to the core principles of public health. Details on this year’s recipients is attached.

Residents interested in attending the open house are asked to RSVP by sending an email to [MoralesBN@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:MoralesBN@elpasotexas.gov) before February 1<sup>st</sup>.

*The Department of Public Health programs and the 2019 Open House Event are designed to achieve the City’s goal to nurture and promote a healthy, sustainable community.*

**MEDIA: The recipients are attached on the e-mail.**

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