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Contact:

Susan Burket
Montgomery Hospice
301-921-4401 x 145
SBurket@montgomeryhospice.org
www.montgomeryhospice.org

Dr. Ira Byock , Montgomery Hospice and The Erickson School Provide Education on End-of-Life Care

Rockville, MD, January 25, 2012 – Dr. Ira Byock (nationally known palliative care expert) and Montgomery Hospice professionals will be teaching a course on end-of-life patient care as part of the Executive Education program of the Erickson School. The four-session online class will start on March 22, 2012 and is approved for eight credit hours by the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards.

Numbers from the 2010 Census demonstrate the increasing need for end-of-life care and education; the population 65 years old and over has increased at a faster rate than the total population. This older population represented 13 percent of the total population in 2010, an increase from 12.4 percent in 2000. The Administration on Aging predicts that people 65 and over will make up 19 percent of the population by 2030.

The Erickson School, a part of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, works to “prepare a community of leaders who will use their education to improve society by enhancing the lives of older adults.” The Executive Education program provides professional education to leaders in the fields of aging, including seniors housing and long-term care professionals.

Ira Byock, MD is Director of Palliative Medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and a Professor at Dartmouth Medical School. Dr. Byock has been on many national television and radio programs, and has written several articles and books on the ethics and practice of hospice, palliative and end-of-life care. His new book, *The Best Care Possible: A Physician’s Quest to Transform Care Through the End of Life*, is coming out in March of this year.

Montgomery Hospice, the largest medical hospice in Montgomery County, Maryland, has been serving the community for over 30 years. In 2011 Montgomery Hospice served more than 2,000 patients and supported more than 5,670 county residents with bereavement services. Montgomery Hospice provides professional education through the Montgomery Hospice Center for Learning.

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