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Management program heading to China

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By Ed Stannard, Register Metro Editor

NEW HAVEN — A team from Yale University is traveling to China as part of a program to train 500 Chinese women in health care management.

Professor Elizabeth Bradley, faculty director of Yale's Global Health Leadership Institute, is heading the team that is flying to China Wednesday to begin learning about China's health care system. She will take part in an opening ceremony at Tsinghua University in Beijing Friday.

"The program is focused on health management," she said late last week. "This means people who run and manage health facilities like clinics and hospitals."

Bradley is director of Global Health Initiatives at the Yale School of Public Health.

The institute has launched similar programs in Ethiopia and Liberia and plans to do so in Egypt, but Bradley said China has more resources than those countries. "China in particular is one of those countries that is really at a critical point in their health system," she said. The program will focus on rural providers who have fewer resources than the cities do.

Bradley said many of the skills health care managers need don't depend on financial resources but involve problem-solving and strategic thinking. "You've got to get every drop out of every penny you have," she said.

Management is key to a successful health-care system, she said, calling it “the wheels on which policy wagons run. You really have to have the implementers or the managers equipped.”

The program is sponsored by Goldman Sachs’ “10,000 Women” initiative, which the financial services company started to educate women around the world in business and management, the Yale release said. The program is based on research from Goldman Sachs, the World Bank and others which found that training women to own their own businesses is effective in economic development.

Professor Lei Xue of Tsinghua University, co-chairman of the program, said in a statement, “This is the first time there has been collaboration between top universities in China and the U.S. in the field of advanced training for rural health care administrators.

As a result, we are still researching the best practices — for example, the curriculum design and project selection and design for the participants.

“We look forward to setting up standards for the advanced health care administrators’ education in China,” he said.

Classes, which will last four months per session, begin in November.

The Global Health Leadership Institute was initiated to develop health management internationally and includes faculty from the Schools of Public Health, Medicine, Nursing and departments in the arts and sciences.

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