

CONNECTIONS

A message from Bill Leaver to our leaders across Iowa Health System | July 2010



Staying Connected

Welcome to Iowa Health System Connections, a monthly e-newsletter to share news from throughout the health system. Please forward this to others who may find it of interest. Thanks for all you do to help us achieve our Vision of delivering the Best Outcome Every Patient Every Time.

Bill

Iowa Health System Receives a \$17.7 Million Federal Grant to Further extend the Broadband Network

Earlier this month, the Obama Administration announced Iowa Health System will receive a \$17.7 million grant to upgrade our existing fiber network. This will allow for connections to more than 200 health care facilities and improve access for residents and businesses statewide, which could benefit an estimated 1.7 million people.

The funding will allow us to make fast broadband connectivity available to health care providers throughout Iowa and lays the foundation for state-of-the-art telemedicine, remote diagnosis, health and patient data exchange, research and records compliance.

This network, once up and running by mid-year 2012, will serve primary care physicians, specialists, home health care providers, hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories, community health centers, clinics and other providers. It will enable the electronic, safe and secure exchange of patient information, and allow for timely and efficient health care delivery that limits redundant services by different providers. This will help reduce health care costs and improve patient outcomes.

The grant also will help provide broadband access to organizations and agencies serving vulnerable populations such as low-income, unemployed and the elderly. This will enable independent physicians to be users of Electronic Health Records and to provide this benefit to their patients.

We will be able to provide broadband access to homebound patients, which will support more effective primary, specialty and preventive care. It will result in lower cost treatment and permit timely diagnosis of patients with chronic illnesses.

Trinity - Quad-Cities and St. Luke's - Cedar Rapids Earn Joint Commission Gold Seals

Trinity's total joint replacement program has earned the Gold Seal of Approval for health care quality. The Joint Commission awarded Trinity its Disease-Specific Care Certification for knee and hip replacement surgery at both the Bettendorf and Rock Island hospital campuses.

St. Luke's Hospital has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval in four areas by demonstrating compliance with national standards for health care quality and safety. The four disease-specific care programs include: Stroke, Total Hip and Knee and Advanced Heart Failure. Joint Commission reviewers did not identify any requirements for improvement for any of



the programs.

An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 17,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

St. Luke's - Sioux City Honored as United Way Hall of Fame Company



Peter Thoreen
President and CEO
St. Luke's

St. Luke's Health System was inducted as a Hall of Fame Company in Siouxland for the United Way. The support given by St. Luke's and its employees ranks them as the ninth largest campaign for the Siouxland United Way. Hall of Fame companies consistently support the mission of the United Way with successful annual employee campaigns that incorporate best practices, their employees' involvement as volunteers and their ongoing support of United Way's mission.

In addition to monetary donations, St. Luke's team members are actively involved as volunteers with the campaign, community impact teams and the board of directors. St. Luke's President and CEO Peter Thoreen accepted the award on behalf of St. Luke's employees at a recent United Way recognition luncheon.

Iowa Lutheran Hospital - Des Moines Auxiliary Celebrating 100 Years

What began as a dream for a handful of Lutheran women has resulted in 100 years of service and dedication to the community. Founded in 1910, four years before the hospital's opening, the Iowa Lutheran Hospital Auxiliary is one of the oldest and largest in America with nearly 1,000 members.

Throughout the century, the Auxiliary has lived up to its mission to support services and activities that benefit patients, the community and the hospital. Along with general fundraising, the Auxiliary is responsible for:

- Education Endowment – Awarding more than 75 employees \$43,000 in endowment scholarships
- Not New Shop – Bringing in a net sum of \$125,000 last year at the thrift store.
- Sewing Committee – A volunteer sewing committee makes bibs as gift for newborns and their mothers



Early members of Iowa Lutheran
Hospital Auxiliary

"We've cared about the hospital for 100 years, and we hope to go on caring for 100 more," says Joanne Mahaffey, Auxiliary president at Iowa Lutheran Hospital.

New Surgical Service at Trinity - Fort Dodge



Surgeons at Trinity Regional Medical
Center perform LAP-BAND surgery.

Trinity Regional Medical Center is now offering the LAP-BAND weight loss procedure as part of its surgical services. The LAP-BAND weight loss procedure has been shown to be safer than traditional gastric bypass surgery because the stomach is not stapled, nor is the bowel rerouted. Most importantly, the procedure is reversible without high risk of complications.

The new procedure at Trinity will be complemented with a diet and nutrition program for patients.

Finley's Wendt Regional Cancer Center Receives Accreditation

The Finley Hospital's Wendt Regional Cancer Center in Dubuque received a Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS). This Accreditation with Commendation was awarded after an on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor during which the facility demonstrated a high degree of compliance with CoC standards.

More than 1,400 CoC-accredited cancer programs represent close to 25 percent of all hospitals. The Accreditation Program sets quality-of-care standards for cancer programs and reviews the programs to ensure they conform to these standards. Accreditation by the CoC is given only to those facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance.

To maintain accreditation, facilities with CoC-accredited cancer programs must undergo an on-site review every three years.



Iowa Home Health Care Recognized for Exceptional Service

Iowa Home Health Care has been recognized by the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board for its exceptional value and support of certification for wound, ostomy or continence nurses. The 2010 Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board Employer Recognition Award was presented to Iowa Home Health Care at the 2010 Joint Conference of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Society and the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists in Phoenix. The annual award honors an organization that demonstrates exceptional value and support of certification for wound, ostomy or continence nurses.

The Awards Committee noted that Iowa Home Health Care has recognized the value of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing certification necessary for enhanced patient outcomes and safety. Iowa Health Home Care has supported employee education in the specialty by providing funds for tuition, books, clinical instruction and examination fees. Additionally, Iowa Health Home Care has expanded the Wound, Ostomy and Continence program by hiring two additional nurses and invested in specialized software for wound management.

[Read past issues of Connections](#)