

NEWS RELEASE

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“Grow Your Own” Grant Will Help Bothwell Regional Health Center Provide Training & Certification for Emergency Department Staff

Sedalia, MO - Bothwell Regional Health Center has been awarded a “Grow Your Own” grant from the Missouri Hospital Association to help enhance the hospital’s health-care workforce. The grant of \$50,000 will be used to enhance the quality of emergency care by providing Emergency Department staff with training and certification opportunities.

“The Emergency Department is the *de facto* front door to the hospital,” said President and Chief Executive Officer John Dawes. “More than 24,000 people are seen in our ED every year. We want to ensure our staff stays current and is equipped to deal with both the volume and the complexity of medical issues they see every day. We have carefully crafted a Critical Skills Development Program to do just that.”

At Bothwell Regional Health Center, the Grow Your Own funds will be used to implement this comprehensive program that includes leadership skill development, nurse mentoring and training for clinical certifications. Registered nurses in the Emergency Department will have the opportunity to earn Certified Emergency Nurse, Sexual Assault Nursing Examiner, and Trauma Nurse Core Curriculum training and certifications. In addition, certified nurse assistants in the ED will be able to earn ED technician certification. A mentoring program will pair experienced nurses with newer hires to help them adjust to the demands of the Emergency Department.

The aging population, growing number of individuals with chronic conditions and expanded access to health insurance have led to increasing demands on the health care system. These factors and others have generated an urgent need for additional hospital caregivers. In addition, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which includes significant changes to payments and health care delivery systems, coupled with new technology, such as electronic health records, has increased demand for works with highly specialized skills.

“The workforce challenge for Missouri hospitals is two-fold,” said Herb B. Kuhn, MHA president and CEO. “First, hospitals must address the shortage of educated health care workers, including primary care physicians, nurses, therapists and imaging technicians, to meet the expanding demand for care. Second, hospital leaders also must recruit and retain talented individuals to manage increasingly complex health care organizations. The Grow Your Own program allows hospitals to address these challenges with plans that are tailored to the needs of their organizations and the communities they serve.”

Applications for the Grow Your Own Hospital Grant Program were submitted in July. The applications were reviewed and selected by an independent committee composed of representatives from health care, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations with experience in health care grant development and funding processes.

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Bothwell Regional Health Center is a 140-bed regional health center serving west-central Missouri with state-of-the-art technology and comprehensive health and wellness services including surgical, cancer, orthopedic, cardiovascular, women's health, and therapy services. For more information on Bothwell Regional Health Center and its services, visit the Web site at www.brhc.org.