

A Major Medical Gift

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Florida Hospital partners with Florida State to boost medical education in Orlando

GAINESVILLE — The primaverbal announcement by leaders of Florida Hospital and Florida State University (FSU) of a \$2 million gift to boost medical training in Central Florida has industry insiders buzzing.

Speculation has swirled that the move further separates Florida Hospital from rival Orlando Health, and the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, which reportedly backed out of a deal with Florida Hospital late last year.

“Although no one’s saying it on the record, it’s true,” said a Florida physician leader, who declined to be identified. “That said, it’s great for Orlando to have a gift of this magnitude to further medical training right here at home.”

Another local healthcare leader said: “FSU Medical School-Orlando is probably the best kept secret in Central Florida. The mission statement definitely differentiates from UCF’s College of Medicine.”

The gift will establish the Florida Hospital Endowed Fund for Medical Education to help the College of Medicine support its faculty of nearly 600 Orlando-area physicians.

“A medical school with our unique, community-based curricular design requires outstanding, dedicated clinical partners if excellence in educating the next generation of Florida’s physicians is to be assured,” said Michael Muszynski, MD, dean of the FSU medical school’s Orlando campus.

Florida Hospital CEO Lars Houmann said the FSU College of Medicine teaching model is “an excellent and highly effective approach to growing Florida’s much needed future physician population.”

“From a resource and efficacy standpoint, the community-based clinical training approach directly aligns with the requirements of a 21st century healthcare model,” he said.

The FSU College of Medicine’s Orlando campus on East Colonial Drive has been in place since state lawmakers approved it in 2002. Florida Hospital supported the creation of the FSU College of Medicine during the legislative process and became one of its affiliates in 2002, just before the Orlando campus welcomed its first group of students.

The premiere class of third-year students began in 2003 and graduated in 2005. The Orlando campus has 20 third-year and 20 fourth-year medical students.

“Now that we’re celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Orlando campus, we appreciate this

generous gift as an acknowledgement of that relationship, and a great help to us to support and sustain the quality leadership, faculty and programs there in the future,” said John P. Fogarty, MD, dean of the FSU College of Medicine.

Even though students use the Orlando campus as a home base for a longitudinal doctoring course, they spend most of their clinical training in the community. Students work directly with local physicians in a one-on-one apprenticeship-style model to complete clinical rotations in family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics-gynecology, surgery, emergency medicine, psychiatry or geriatrics and through other electives. The approach is meant to give students more involvement on the frontlines of the healthcare delivery system. For example, instead of operating a teaching hospital or academic medical center, the FSU College of Medicine partners with hospitals, medical centers, health clinics and physician offices throughout the state to ensure students have an opportunity to work directly with the most experienced physicians in the community and get them more involved in patient care. As a result, of the 81 alumni physicians now practicing in Florida, 70 percent are primary care providers.

“We find the mission of the College of Medicine – to produce physicians who would focus upon primary care and seek to increase access for citizens who live in underserved areas – to be very compatible to our own history and mission,” said Rich Morrison, regional vice president of government and public affairs at Florida Hospital.

The FSU College of Medicine operates regional campuses in Daytona Beach, Fort Pierce, Pensacola, Sarasota and Tallahassee, and has rural training sites in Immokalee and Marianna. Thirteen members of the 113-member FSU College of Medicine Class of 2013 recently matched with residency programs in Orlando, including five at Florida Hospital. Those students are scheduled to graduate next month and begin their residency training in July.