MERCY WELCOMES KARL KEELER AS NEW PRESIDENT

Every year – at the start of school and during winter break – Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines President Karl Keeler takes time to sit with each of his five children, ranging in ages from 11 to 17, to discuss their goals. He calls it “the big picture,” and it’s a tradition Keeler shared as a kid with his own father. This exercise helped shape his leadership strengths – planning, prioritizing and pushing health care organizations forward.

Since joining Mercy on January 15, Keeler said he has been busy becoming familiar with Mercy’s programs, services and staff. With each interaction, you’re likely to hear him ask, “So, how are we doing?” In continuing to seek others’ feedback for progress, Keeler said he holds high regard for those who come with answers and ideas, not just problems.

“Health care is hard. To be successful, we must all work together to make this a phenomenal place to receive care and work,” said Keeler.

Keeler said his inquisitive nature and determination for ongoing improvement have been known to catch others off guard, sometimes leading to the misconception he is a very serious person. “I can be difficult to read, but I am surprised when others view me as serious,” said Keeler. “I try to be fully present, helping me to be the best leader I can be at work, while also fully enjoying my family at home.”

He is also guided by what drew him to Mercy in the first place – the legacy left by the Sisters of Mercy. “Giving to those most vulnerable in our community – those poor in spirit, poor in health. We want to make sure we continue to honor that remarkable legacy of serving, improving and giving back to the community.”

TAKE FIVE WITH KARL KEELER

Q: You lived in Cedar Rapids from 2004-2010. What are your favorite things about Iowa?
A: We are an outdoor family and like to be where technology doesn’t work – where we can “just be.” Iowa has a lot of nice rivers and bike trails for us to explore. And the pork in Iowa is awesome!

Q: If you could ask someone only one question, and you had to decide on the spot whether to hire him/her based on the answer, what would you ask?
A: I look at character and those who have characteristics of wanting to be excellent and improve themselves and those around them. We can teach everything else.

Q: When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: A pilot or a judge

Q: What music did you last listen to in your car?
A: Twenty One Pilots

Q: How do your children describe to others what you do for work?
A: “Dad helps people”
INFECTION PREVENTION KEEPS OUR COMMUNITIES INFORMED ABOUT THE FLU

With the flu hitting Iowa and 48 other states hard, information from Mercy Infection Prevention has been in high demand. Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Specialist Jeff Brock and Mercy providers have appeared almost weekly in news stories to share updates on the flu season. This week, Jeff took part in Mercy’s first LIVE broadcast Facebook program hosted by Local News 5 (WOI-TV).

Local News 5 contacted Mercy’s Public Relations department about providing flu information during two LIVE Facebook programs. Jeff joined Local 5 anchors to discuss the flu and take questions from people watching the Facebook feed. Initial feedback from people participating in the program included: “I liked hearing the information from an expert” — and — “…it was good information I can use.”

“When you need to get the word out about health issues like the flu it’s good to try all types of communication,” said Brock. “I enjoyed the experience and I think social media can play a role in helping reach people.”

Local 5 News indicated they were pleased with the event and may consider future LIVE Facebook programs.

WHAT’S UP?

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Melissa Doehrmann, Main OR Surgery, and Nick, on the birth of their son, Ayden Jacob. Ayden was born on Dec. 29.

Sarah Atkinson, CSICU, and Anthony, on the birth of their son, Max Alan. Max was born on Jan. 3, and was welcomed home by Anna, 12, Payton, 11, and Beth, 3.

Stefanie Hingtgen, pediatrics, and Brad, on the birth of their son, Grayson. Grayson was born on Jan. 3.

Tiffany Beyer, 8 North, and David, on the birth of their son, Miles. Miles was born on Jan. 5 and was welcomed home by Kaelen, 3.

Eric Asbe, Internal Medicine Residency Program, and Melanie, on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Ann. Olivia was born on Jan. 16.

THE DRAKE MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

brought a fun-filled visit to Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics on Wednesday, Jan. 17. They delivered teddy bears from their annual Teddy Bear Toss game held in December, played games with the kids and brought lots of smiles.

WELCOME NEW PROVIDERS

Shelby Dougherty, ARNP, Hospitalist
Jacob Lane, PA-C, Trauma Services
Tiffany Post, PA-C, Mercy Clinics Family Medicine & Urgent Care South

CONTACT US

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2611

If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.

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