VELLINGA PLANS TRANSITION INTO RETIREMENT NEXT YEAR

After 43 years of service to health care in Iowa and our health care systems, David H. (Dave) Vellinga has announced his intention to retire in 2017. Dave is president & CEO of Mercy Health Network, as well as senior vice president - Iowa for Catholic Health Initiatives and president & CEO for Trinity Health-Iowa. Mercy Health Network is a joint operating venture between our organizations, Catholic Health Initiatives, headquartered in Englewood, Colo., and Trinity Health, headquartered in Livonia, Mich.

Witt-Kiefer, a nationally-known executive search firm, has been retained to assist in the recruitment of Dave’s successor.

Dave came to central Iowa in January 1999 to serve as president & CEO of Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines. Working closely with physicians, community leaders, Mercy colleagues and board members, Dave led Mercy to statewide and national recognitions in innovation, quality and significant growth in services and patient volumes.

Eighteen months after arriving in Des Moines, in August 2000, Dave also agreed to lead Mercy Health Network. For more than a dozen years, Dave served in both roles, leading MHN in its successful growth and improvement strategies while concurrently leading Mercy Des Moines. In July 2013, Dave’s role as president & CEO of MHN officially became a full-time job.

“Dave’s contributions to Mercy, Mercy Health Network, and health care in the state of Iowa are truly too numerous to mention,” said Bob Ritz, president, Mercy Medical Center - Des Moines. Through his visionary leadership and ability to forge strong relationships with physician leaders, Mercy achieved national recognition in quality, completed remarkable growth initiatives, improved patient access to care, and forged strategic new partnerships – including new contracts with insurers that paid us for value, rather than volume.

“Few health care leaders have an impact on an entire state, but we can say with certainty Dave has had a tremendous impact on the health care system in Iowa. Perhaps Dave’s greatest contribution is helping to ensure the ongoing operation of so many rural hospitals, which faced serious vulnerabilities with

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LETT'S CELEBRATE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY WEEK

National Radiologic Technology Week, Nov. 6-12, is an annual celebration that spotlights the important role medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals play in diagnosis, treatment, patient care and health care safety.

The celebration is held annually during the week of Nov. 8 to commemorate the discovery of X-ray by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen on that day in 1895. He generated the very first “roentgenogram” by developing the image of his wife’s hand, showing her bones, flesh and wedding ring.

Did you know 68 percent of all patients admitted to Mercy receive some type of imaging? In 2015, the imaging team performed 139,546 radiology exams. Currently, Mercy employs approximately 200 radiology technologists and radiation therapists. There are 17 fellowship-trained radiologists that interpret and perform different procedures within the imaging department. Mercy’s imaging department consists of several modalities including general X-ray, mammography, CAT scan, nuclear medicine, MRI, ultrasound, interventional radiology and radiation therapy.

Please take a moment – especially this week – to recognize our radiology imaging professionals for the vital work and contributions they make each day to Mercy, to respective health care professions and especially to patients who receive their care.

VELLINGA PLANNING TRANSITION TO RETIREMENT

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work with Dave and to learn from his amazing leadership,” Ritz said.

Based on his genuine admiration for physicians, Dave developed formal and individual relationships with many. During his tenure, Mercy Clinics grew substantially and Iowa Heart Center formally affiliated with Mercy. Today Mercy Des Moines has more than 450 integrated physicians and advance practice clinicians.

Leading the charge in a new era of accountability and population health management, Dave was also instrumental in the development of the nationally-acclaimed Mercy ACO. In addition, he created “Mercy Momentum,” through which the medical center improved and expanded its services and facilities throughout central Iowa. The results can be seen in state-of-the-art services on Mercy’s central campus, in Ankeny, in Pleasant Hill, at the West Lakes campus in West Des Moines, the Wellness Campus in Clive and other locations. One of the last and largest components of the project was the development of Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes in West Des Moines, the state’s first LEED-certified hospital and a facility that utilized dozens of evidence-based design features to improve patient safety.

Dave’s roots with Mercy run deep. Before his service at Mercy Des Moines and with MHN, he served as president & CEO for Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa in Mason City. He also served in the part-time role as president of the board and CEO of Mercy (later Trinity) International Health Services, traveling to underdeveloped countries to assist in developing health improvement projects and facilities. Earlier leadership roles included serving as CEO of Ellsworth Community Hospital in Iowa Falls and as a planning executive with the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City.

Throughout his career, Dave has been active in the communities in which he lived, and served in many professional associations and civic activities that reflect his passion for improving health care in Iowa.

Dave is married and resides in West Des Moines with his wife, Nancy. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren. Aside from spending time with his family, Dave’s interests include golfing, bicycling and other wellness activities, including completing 30 marathons.

MERCY ANNOUNCES JOINT VENTURE

Mercy has signed an agreement with Kindred Healthcare to create a joint venture to build and operate a 50-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Clive. The project received Certificate of Need approval last week from the Iowa State Health Facilities Council.

The new hospital will care for adults recovering from conditions such as stroke, neurological disorders, brain and spinal cord injuries and other long-term illnesses or injuries. Kindred will manage the day-to-day operations, with Mercy providing medical staff and ancillary services, such as lab, radiology and pharmacy.

The hospital is expected to open in spring 2018. At that time, Mercy will close its inpatient rehabilitation unit on 4 North. All current staff will be offered positions at the new location, and additional staff will be hired as needed.

CONTACT US

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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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