

LR News From Lenoir-Rhyne

Lenoir-Rhyne University Health Sciences Center FACT SHEET

What is it? The Lenoir-Rhyne University Health Sciences Center (LRUHSC) will be a comprehensive, full health sciences center offering advanced training for medical and healthcare professionals. The LRUHSC will:

- Allow LRU to significantly expand its current graduate studies in health sciences, and establish building tracks for undergraduates to matriculate into these programs.
- Include the immediate inception of a 27-month Physician Assistant Program beginning January 2016. The program will be open to 48 new students each year and include the employment of 5 to 6 full-time faculty and staff members.
- Establish clinical training centers for the Physician Assistant Program (for second year studies) at LRU's three campuses in Hickory, Asheville and Columbia, SC.
- Begin feasibility studies to review expanded options to possibly include Doctorate-degree programs for nurse practitioners, pharmacy, optometry, physical therapy, and ultimately, osteopathic medicine.
- Provide high quality internship and student practitioner opportunities to supporting partners on a priority basis.

Where will it be located? The LRUHSC will be conveniently located in Hickory on Lenoir-Rhyne Blvd. (between Morte Mill and Hollar Mill).

When will it open? Development of the Center will begin in February of 2015, with a scheduled opening date of Fall 2015 with the matriculation of the first class of students in the physician assistant studies program in January 2016.

Who is responsible? The LRUHSC is being developed in partnership with the City of Hickory, Catawba County, Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and Frye Regional Medical Center (FRMC). We are pleased to have the support of all of these institutions as well as the community in a collaborative effort to bring this project to fruition.

Why is it being developed? The development of the LRUHSC will provide numerous benefits to the students of LRU, the community and surrounding area, as well as the healthcare industry. The Center will help to:

- Centralize and support current and future healthcare opportunities
- Create jobs for the city of Hickory, Catawba County and surrounding areas.
- Attract business investors to the community as well as families and retirees.
- Provide opportunities for growth of both CVMC and FRMC.
- Establish Hickory as the preferred provider of trained healthcare professionals in Western North Carolina. The development of the LRUHSC will help to position the area as a premier healthcare careers center, working in cooperation with current medical and training assets in our area including:
 - Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) ValleySim Simulated Hospital and Associate Nursing Degree program
 - LRU's Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science Nursing Degree programs as well as Master's programs in Occupational Therapy, Public Health, Athletic Training, and Counseling
 - Outstanding medical services and commitment to patient care provided by CVMC and FRMC
- Provide support for the future redevelopment of the LR Boulevard area (south of Highland Avenue), the University City and Inspiring Spaces programs.

How much will it cost? Initial site acquisition and development will cost approximately \$2,000,000. Support will come from the partners: the EDC, Catawba County, the City of Hickory, CVMC, FRMC and Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Who do I contact for more information? Peter Kendall, LRU Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance, at (828) 328-7100 or peter.kendall@lr.edu.