This is an official St. Vincent Evansville Communication from Dan Parod, President, and Heidi M. Dunniway, MD, Regional Chief Medical Officer

With Indiana facing a statewide physician shortage, Indiana University School of Medicine - the largest medical school in the US - is working to help fill a gap with the establishment of the first internal medicine residency program in southwestern Indiana. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has approved the IU School of Medicine Southwest Indiana Internal Medicine Residency Program. The ACGME is the accreditation body for residency graduate medical education (GME) training programs for physicians in the country.

We are excited to announce St.Vincent Evansville will be one of two training sites for internal medicine residents. Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes will also be a training site. Recruitment for the program will take place this year, with the first residents beginning in 2020. This new residency program is approved to accept a maximum of 16 categorical residents and eight preliminary interns each year, for a total of up to 56 at any one time.

According to Robert Ficalora, MD, FACP, Program Director for Southwest Indiana Internal Medicine Residency and a Professor of Clinical Medicine at IU School of Medicine-Evansville, physicians who complete their undergraduate and graduate training in the same communities are more likely to make personal and professional connections there, resulting in more physicians remaining in the region to serve patients.

Indiana ranks 39th in the nation in physicians per capita, with many areas in southwest Indiana designated as health professions shortage areas. The goal of this residency program is to increase access to much-needed primary care for rural and underserved populations in a 10-county region in southwest Indiana.

This partnership with the IU School of Medicine-Evansville is beneficial for all involved. The resident physicians will have an opportunity to introduce new technology to our staff and enhance quality improvement activities. Our associates are encouraged to share our Mission and Values … demonstrating how we provide compassionate, personalized care to those we are privileged to serve, with special attention to the poor and vulnerable.

This communication has been sent to the following: St. Vincent Evansville Associates