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UA3/9/7 Med Center Health Partnership

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Med Center Health Partnership

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

First, I want to thank you for the kindness expressed to both Julie and me during our Opening Convocation ceremony last Friday. This was both a special and an emotional moment for us. The warmth expressed by our friends across the faculty and staff is genuinely appreciated.

As most of you know by now, last Friday the Board of Regents took action to authorize me to reach an agreement with The Medical Center of Bowling Green to accept an investment of \$22,000,000 to build a sports medicine complex on our campus. The design work will be completed soon, and construction will begin in a few months. This new facility will allow us to relocate our Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program from the WKU Medical Center Health Science Complex on The Medical Center campus to our campus and will also allow our DPT students to be fully engaged with our WKU athletic teams in their training and professional preparation. The space vacated by our DPT program will be made available to the University of Kentucky, which will sublease this space from us to locate a new full four-year medical school, thus consummating an important WKU/UK/Medical Center partnership to bring a medical school to Bowling Green.

In addition to WKU DPT, The Medical Center will locate a sports medicine group and an orthopaedic unit in this new on-campus building to serve our campus, the athletics program, and the broader Bowling Green community. The building will also house baseball offices and a locker room, since it will displace the current baseball clubhouse. Attached to the building will be an 83,000 square foot indoor training facility, which will be managed by the Preston Center. Mr. Stephen Rey, who directs the Preston Center, will also be the director of this facility. He will ensure that WKU students, club teams, and intramural sports will have access, and he will schedule athletic use of the facility.

In return for this investment, The Medical Center will be promoted as “The official healthcare provider of WKU” in general marketing materials. This partnership will in no way limit faculty/staff choices in providers or facilities under the WKU Health Plan. Our faculty and staff will continue to have a full set of options and choices as it relates to health care services in our community and beyond. WKU will retain the right to determine its third-party administrator—currently Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Medical Center and affiliated entities are proposing reduced co-pays, reduced co-insurance, and discounted medical service rates as incentives for using their providers. These details will be vetted by our Benefits Committee and Human Resources according to our customary procedures prior to implementation. Again, it will be our employees who make their own personal choices. Attached is the news release which went out Friday afternoon.

We are pleased to form this deeper mutually beneficial partnership with the largest health care provider in our region of Kentucky.

Gary A. Ransdell

Attachment



Dr. Gary A. Ransdell | President