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From: Michael Kennedy <MKENNEDY@kumc.edu>
Date: Thu, 08 Mar 2007 12:10:14 -0600
To: Stephanie Sharp <vote@stephaniesharp.com>
Subject: Re: KU Med affiliation

Rep Sharp:

Thanks for asking about this.

I have had multiple discussions with the executive branch at the medical school. It is very clear from those conversations that the last thing we want from this affiliation is any reduction in either the number or quality of medical students going to Wichita. In fact, the ultimate goal is to eventually increase the number of slots available for students and residents for training in Wichita. One of the goals of this affiliation is to provide the kind of support needed to allow an increase in the total number of slots for both campuses. This would be phased in over the next 10 years.

Barbara Atkinson has assured me that she intends to provide incentives to attract more students to Primary Care, Family Medicine and Rural Medicine. She has told me that this would likely include strengthened salaries for residents choosing these training programs. Financial support from the affiliation will provide the resources that could, in part, support these new incentives. Increasing the number of students in medical school will require an increased investment from the state, as well. The recently completed but not yet published Kansas Physician Workforce Report (should be out in the next week or so) helps to define the future projections for physician supply for the state. In that report is a recommendation that we will need to increase both Graduate and Undergraduate Medical Education in Kansas.

There is a recent re-enforcement in the commitment to train primary care physicians for Kansas. The Dean of the Medical School in Wichita and the Dean/EVC have formed the Deans' Kansas Primary Care Education Enhancement Task Force with representation from both campuses to make recommendations on ways to enhance primary care education at the medical school. The report from this task force is due August of 2007.

KUH has proposed increased GME funding and increased resident slots. With this affiliation the plan is to grow 200 new residency training positions over the next 10 years. Multiple studies looking at where doctors practice in relationship to where they did residency show that most doctors are in a practice similar to the geographic location in which they did residency. Increasing the number by this amount in the area will increase the number of doctors practicing in Kansas. Increasing the number of resident positions in Wichita will increase the number of doctors practicing in that geographic area. A survey of the residency graduates from the last 10 years shows that of the primary care residents that remained in the state to enter practice, 32% from KC and 46% from Wichita entered a rural practice.

Bottom line...affiliations that allow increased monetary support to grow the educational and research missions of KUMC will allow the increased support needed for renewed emphasis in Primary Care Education. Primary Care doctors trained in the state tend to remain in the state. Both Wichita and Kansas City will benefit in the number of doctors trained in these regions. Rural areas of the state will benefit. I have personal assurance from Dr. Atkinson that the Primary Care Mission of KUMC (both campuses) will be fulfilled and further that in the near future it will be enhanced.

As the Assistant Dean for Rural Health Education, I am very encouraged by the potential presented through this affiliation with St. Luke's.

Sorry, that was more than a paragraph. Please feel free to share this E-mail with anyone you like.

Again, thanks for asking for my input. I hope this answer helps and if you have any questions please feel free to ask. I can meet with you anytime to talk about this more if you wish.

Mike

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