

## **NEWS RELEASE**



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**For Immediate Release**

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### **THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL COLLEGE CELEBRATES OPENING OF WILLIAMSPORT REGIONAL CAMPUS**

The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) hosted a grand opening celebration today in the Williamsport Hospital & Medical Center for the opening of the College's Williamsport Regional Campus Office that includes Bradford, Tioga, Lycoming and Clinton counties. The office will serve as a regional presence for clinical faculty and future medical students during their community experiences in these counties.

"This is a great event to celebrate TCMC's presence in the Williamsport region. Our goal is to establish a strong presence in this region and keep the students, faculty, and our partner organizations engaged and connected to the community. We are very appreciative of the support we have received from the Williamsport community and we are looking forward to continued collaborations within this region." stated President and Dean, Robert D'Alessandri, MD.

The College has affiliation agreements in place with Susquehanna Health System and Guthrie Clinic within the Williamsport region. "We are fortunate to have established partnerships with such outstanding health care organizations. These collaborations will help integrate the students into these communities and may lead them to stay and practice there after completion of their studies." stated Paul Katz, MD, Vice Dean for Faculty and Clinical Affairs. Currently, TCMC has 80 physicians signed on as clinical faculty members in the Williamsport region. The College plans to develop 3-5 additional regional campuses over the next decade.

The Williamsport Regional Campus Office, located inside the campus of the Williamsport Hospital & Medical Center joins two other regional campuses in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Upon enrollment at The Commonwealth Medical College, students will be assigned a regional community in which they will spend three weeks a year during their first two years of study. In their third and fourth years, the students will live and work in the region, serving clinical rotations in multiple settings, including hospitals, physicians' offices, health departments, and federally qualified health centers. Students will also train at high-tech simulation centers located on multiple regional campuses.

The Williamsport campus will house the office of Williamsport Associate Dean of Regional Campus Development, Keith Shenberger, MD. Dr. Shenberger is a former President of the Medical Staff at Susquehanna Health System as well as Vice-Chairman and later Chairman of the Department of Medicine.

The Commonwealth Medical College is a new medical school that will serve all of northeastern Pennsylvania and expects to accept sixty medical students and thirty Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) students in 2009. The College will have campuses in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport. The Commonwealth Medical College is dedicated to training the next generation of physicians in a community-based model. Focusing on selecting students with a propensity for community service, the school's unique structure is designed to provide these students with diverse clinical experiences from the very first day of their education. For information please go to [\*\*www.thecommonwealthmedical.com\*\*](http://www.thecommonwealthmedical.com).

TCMC has been granted degree-granting authority from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee of Medical Education. The Commonwealth Medical Education Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).