



**Saint Anthony
Hospital**

Caring for the community

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**Mayor Richard M. Daley announces citywide
healthcare “School at Work” initiative;
Saint Anthony Hospital is the mentor hospital for all**

*Press conference is, Feb. 24 at Saint Anthony Hospital
on Chicago’s Southwest Side.*

(CHICAGO FEB. 22, 2010) Addressing the need for an increasingly skilled workforce in Chicago’s healthcare industry – as well as the demand for more and better jobs in the city – Mayor Richard M. Daley will announce the launch of an innovative program, “Building a Career Ladder in Healthcare” to 13 Chicago-area hospitals. A press conference to highlight details will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb. 23, at Saint Anthony Hospital, 2875 W. 19th St., Chicago.

Known as *School at Work*, the program is funded by: the Chicago Department of Community Development; SERCO, Inc. (specifically, Central States SER); the Eleanor Foundation; the Steans Family Foundation; and the Saint Anthony Hospital Foundation .

Saint Anthony Hospital on Chicago’s Southwest Side introduced the innovative *School at Work* program a year ago, and successfully “graduated” its first class of 18 students last August. Because of its leadership and track record, Saint Anthony Hospital was selected as the mentor organization for the hospitals now participating in the program

“I want to thank Saint Anthony Hospital for leading the way with this program. They are helping the City build on the steps we have already taken to ensure that the investments we make in education, job training and business support the overall health of Chicago’s economy and create a workforce whose skills match the needs of local employers,” Mayor Daley says.

Hospitals participating in *School at Work* include: Advocate South Suburban, Children’s Memorial Medical Center; Mercy Hospital and Medical Center; Our Lady of the Resurrection; Resurrection Medical Center; Roseland Community Hospital; Sinai Health System; Norwegian-American Hospital; South Shore Hospital; Saint James Hospital and Health Centers, Swedish Covenant Hospital; and University of Chicago Medical Center.

“Building a Career Ladder In Healthcare” is a career development program for entry-level workers in the healthcare industry. The two-course, 32-week program – at no cost to employees – features on-site instruction offered both before and after work. The goal: to help employees advance in their career paths, prepare for college and maximize their workplace potential. (Every student who completed the first session of School at Work training at Saint Anthony Hospital was admitted to City of Chicago’s Wilbur Wright College.)

“As a community hospital, we are excited to be working with Mayor Daley, the City of Chicago and these foundations to create more opportunities for high-quality jobs in Chicago by leading this citywide initiative,” says Guy A. Medaglia, President and CEO of Saint Anthony Hospital. “By providing our employees with no-cost educational opportunities through *School at Work*, we are helping them to broaden their skill sets.

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Mayor Daley Introduces New Healthcare Learning Initiative Add One

Also, their quality of life will be improved because they'll be better able to support their families, enhancing the well being of the community overall. Ultimately, we plan to offer this program to many more of our employees."

Lynn Fischer, founder and CEO of Catalyst Learning Company, a healthcare workforce development firm, developed *School at Work* 15 years ago. Catalyst, based in Louisville, KY, partnered with Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland to develop *School at Work*. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, *School at Work* helped employers "grow their own" workforces, reduce turnover and increase the number of entry-level employees able to move into higher positions. Some 370 hospitals in 41 states use the program.

"This Chicago projects affects the largest number of residents in an urban area in the history of *School at Work*" says Catalyst's Fischer. "With leadership from the City of Chicago and SERCO, Inc., *School at Work* will foster economic vitality in Chicago by strengthening participating hospitals, their employees and the neighborhoods they serve."

Employees chosen to participate in *School at Work* take part in a rigorous eight-month program with two components:

- *Introduction to Healthcare*, designed to enhance workplace skills by polishing core skills in reading, writing, math, language skills, computer literacy and communications.
- *Becoming a Healthcare Professional* offers an introduction to medical terminology and basic education in, among other areas, anatomy, physiology and medical ethics.

Program participants are required to read at a ninth-grade level to be eligible for the course, and weekly tests ensure that students comprehend current material before moving on to the next sessions.

Pamela Jones, Workplace Development Director, Human Resources Department, Saint Anthony Hospital, says most of the hospital's *School at Work* program participants initially worked in environmental, dietary and foodservice areas. After successfully completing their training, many became eligible for positions in allied health service positions, such as surgical or radiology technology. Several also are employed in nursing at the basic level of certified nursing assistant (CNA). "They need encouragement, support and education to progress to the next level, and we provide it," says Jones.

Employees like Jazette L. Moffet, an employee in the Medical Collections Department at Saint Anthony Hospital and a 2009 graduate of the program, says "I'd been out of school since I graduated from high school, more than 20 years ago. When I heard about *School at Work*, I was elated. This opportunity is a godsend that offers the support I've always needed to go back to school and pursue my goal of attending college."

Attendees at tomorrow's event will include representatives from: foundations funding the efforts; the City of Chicago Department of Community Development, the Metropolitan Healthcare Council (MCHC); and local aldermen.

For more than 110 years, physicians and staff of Saint Anthony Hospital have provided medical care, social services, and community outreach programs to Chicago's underserved communities. Saint Anthony today provides a full continuum of care – acute, medical, primary, pediatric and surgical – to meet the needs of the communities and the patients it serves.