



# Northwest Medical Center

A Tradition of Community Healthcare

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Ashley Shisler

(660) 726-3941

[ashley.shisler@northwestmedicalcenter.net](mailto:ashley.shisler@northwestmedicalcenter.net)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **'Grow Your Own' Grant Will Help Northwest Medical Center Enhance Health Care Workforce**

ALBANY, Mo. — Northwest Medical Center (NMC) has been awarded a “Grow Your Own” grant from the Missouri Hospital Association to help recruit and retain the hospital’s health care workforce. The grant of \$42,000 will be used to expand and continue the sponsorships and partnerships that NMC has with area school districts by educating the youth on the importance of health care and obtaining a career in health care.

The aging population, growing number of individuals with chronic conditions and expanded access to health insurance have led to increasing demands on the health care system. These factors and others have generated an urgent need for additional hospital caregivers. In addition, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which includes significant changes to payments and health care delivery systems, coupled with new technology, such as electronic health records, has increased demand for workers with highly specialized skills.

At Northwest Medical Center, Grow Your Own funds will be used to implement Cerner’s STAT! program into area high school health classes. The STAT! program is an educational class held in area high schools where students learn about careers in health care as they work as a team of clinicians to analyze a patient scenario and recommend steps to improve the patient’s health status.

The long-term goal of implementing the STAT! program is that students will put this knowledge into practice by applying lessons learned in the classroom to their self and begin developing a culture of health and wellness in rural Missouri. This culture of health and wellness will help recruit these individuals to the rural areas of Northwest Missouri when they begin to choose their career paths. According to NMC President and CEO Jon Doolittle, “Students in our area know that we are in a great place to live and work, and Northwest Medical Center devotes itself to continually improving our regions quality of life. We believe that exposing students to the many careers available in health care, while teaching them a community ownership perspective, will lead students to come home to care for the community that provided their health care knowledge.”

“The workforce challenge for Missouri hospitals is two-fold,” said Herb B. Kuhn, MHA president and CEO. “First, hospitals must address the shortage of educated health care workers, including primary care physicians, nurses, therapists and imaging technicians, to meet the expanding demand for care. Second, hospital leaders also must recruit and retain talented individuals to manage increasingly complex health care organizations. The Grow Your Own program allows hospitals to address these challenges with plans that are tailored to the needs of their organizations and the communities they serve.”



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Applications for the Grow Your Own Hospital Grant Program were submitted in July. The applications were reviewed and selected by an independent committee composed of representatives from health care, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations with experience in health care grant development and funding processes.

**About-** Northwest Medical Center has provided high-quality health services to residents in Northwest Missouri since 1957. Along with four satellite clinics and a full-service home-health agency, Northwest Medical Center continues its tradition of community healthcare utilizing leading-edge diagnostic equipment and boasting one of the top emergency room facilities in the region.

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