

https://www.wvnews.com/news/wvnews/leadership-from-west-virginia-university-visit-st-josephs-hospital/article_d30de7b4-d729-11ee-8037-6fbf8c26c9ae.html

Leadership from West Virginia University visit St. Joseph's Hospital

by Noah Jeffries STAFF WRITER
Feb 29, 2024

1 of 8



Representatives from WVU take a picture with the leadership team of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Staff photo by Noah Jeffries

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. (WV News) — One of Upshur County's most critical health care facilities was in the spotlight Thursday, showcasing the skills and resources it has available to

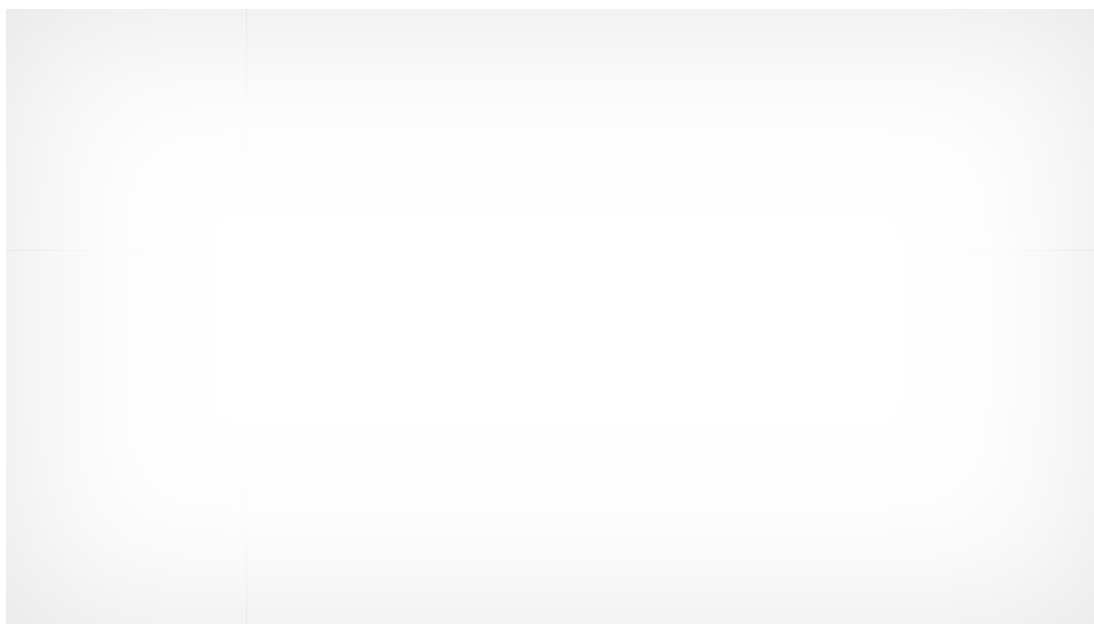
take care of people in the community.

WVU President Gordon Gee, Vice President for Economic Innovation James Hoyer and Assistant Vice President for Outreach Ann Bailey Berry visited WVU Medicine St. Joseph's Hospital in Buckhannon. The university leadership toured the hospital and observed the variety of services offered there.

Skip Gjolberg, president and CEO of the hospital, said he was excited to have Gee and other university representatives see the work St. Joseph's has been doing.

"Over the last few years, I've been telling Dr. Gee that he needs to come visit here," Gjolberg said. "He had some meetings up in the Fayetteville area and said he would stop here for a visit on his way. We want to show our current hospital and the good that we've done in the building, highlights of different areas and some of the staff."

ADVERTISING



As Gjolberg took Gee and the others through the hospital, several staff members stopped to express how happy they are with their jobs. Employee satisfaction is something that Gjolberg has been focusing on.

"We really have a big focus on leadership development," he said. "A lot of times when you survey employees who leave an organization, the reason they leave is their boss. So we really spend a lot of time and effort in improving leadership."

To ensure that employees are satisfied in their career, St. Joseph's also focuses on giving them every opportunity to make suggestions and express concerns, Gjolberg said.

"We also do rounding, where leaders will meet with employees once a month or once every other month to give them an opportunity to say how things are going, address concerns and what they think can be done better," he said. "They can express those concerns at anytime, but this is a set time for people."

Gjolberg also said the hospital aims to encourage positive interactions to make sure patients are always heard and taken care of during their time there.

"We focus on recognizing people for doing a great job at something so we can encourage that kind of behavior," he said. "We also have meetings to address how we're doing on our goals and keep employees in the loop."

Seeing the St. Joseph's employees and the various departments impressed Gee, who said the hospital is an important part of WVU Medicine's goal of ensuring that all patients receive the very best care.

"This has been a long time coming. I've wanted to come here for a long time," Gee said. "Obviously, Buckhannon is right in the center of the state and very important to what we're doing as a university. But also this critical access hospital makes such a difference in the community, and I wanted to be here to celebrate it."

"I think we have a high quality of care. All of our hospitals have access to a lot of care because we're in an epic system. Anyone anywhere can have access to the best of care."

Noah Jeffries can be reached at njeffries@wvnews.com