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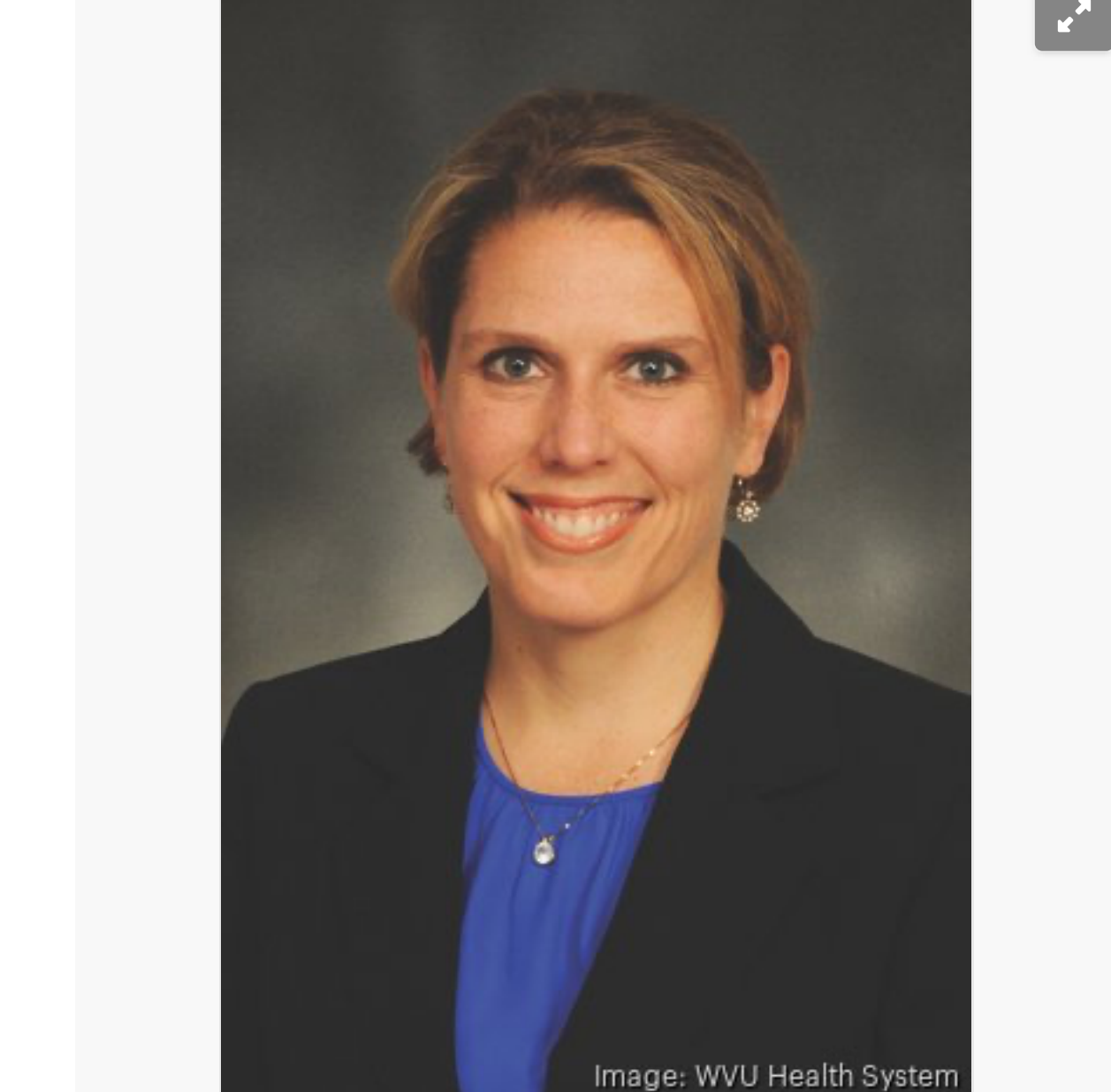
Health Care

# WVU Cancer Institute raises \$950,000 at spring gala, eyes national designation

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Dr. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins, WVU Health System.

WVU HEALTH SYSTEM

By Paul J. Gough – Reporter, Pittsburgh Business Times  
May 2, 2025

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Story Highlights

- WVU Cancer Institute raised \$950,000 at spring gala for research.
- Institute seeks National Cancer Institute designation and new hospital construction.
- Community advisory board established to guide strategic planning and priorities.

The WVU Cancer Institute, which is aiming at a big national designation in the next decade, recently raised \$950,000 at its spring gala.

WVU Cancer Institute’s Spring Gala began in 1985 and is based at the WVU Health System campus in Morgantown but has outposts all over its multistage footprint. It has raised \$13 million in the past four decades.

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The institute treated more than 184,000 patients in 2024 with facilities all over West Virginia including hospitals and other sites in the communities. WVU Health System and West Virginia University are working toward even more, with a cancer hospital that will be built in Morgantown and winning National Cancer Institute designation.

“It is remarkable that the vision for cancer for West Virginia sparked so many years ago has not only come to fruition but continues to expand, reflected by our pursuit of NCI designation and plans to build a new cancer hospital,” said Dr. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins, executive chair/director of the WVU Cancer Institute.”

Hazard-Jenkins said the funds raised by the gala provides funds for research and clinical initiatives. WVU Health System also announced it was moving forward with a big community cancer center in Wheeling in the former Ohio Valley Medical Center site.

WVU Cancer Institute also this week announced it had started a community advisory board that will provide communities and residents a voice in strategic planning, priorities and education. There are 16 members on the board and it first met in April. It will meet six times a year. Hazard-Jenkins said the advisory board was crucial in its efforts toward NCI designation.

“By listening to community member priorities an concerns, Institute administration, clinicians and researchers can synergies our efforts to build the future of the Cancer Institute while staying grounded in our work close to home.

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