



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 12, 2017

Contacts:

Angela Deja, Public Relations Coordinator, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital – (715) 271-7707
Kelly McBride Moore, Bellin Health Communications Specialist – (920) 433-7814
Nicole Hoffmann, ASPIRO Vice President of Development – (920) 593-4330

Project SEARCH Kicks Off with Information Night at Bellin Hospital

GREEN BAY, WI – High school students with intellectual disabilities and their families and teachers are invited to Project SEARCH Information Night TONIGHT at Bellin Hospital.

Partners ASPIRO, Bellin Health, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital, CESA 7, area high schools, ADRC, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation are presenting the event, which will be held from **6-7:30 p.m.** in the Kresge Center on the third floor of **Bellin Hospital, 744 S. Webster Ave.**

Project SEARCH is a one-year transition program for students with intellectual disabilities during their last year of school eligibility. Through an application process, up to 12 students will be chosen to receive training and education through classroom instruction and internships at Bellin Hospital and HSHS St. Vincent Hospital.

Gov. Scott Walker announced the expansion of Project SEARCH to Green Bay in July 2014, and the program began in the 2015-16 school year. All seven students of the inaugural 2015-16 class obtained employment after completing the program. Families of high school students with intellectual disabilities and special education and transition teachers are encouraged to attend the Jan. 12 event.

“These interns have become a part of the Bellin Health family,” said Steve Maricque, president of The Bellin Health Foundation. “We so appreciate their contributions to our organization, and we’re optimistic their time with Project SEARCH will help pave the way for their future success. This truly is a win for the individuals involved in the program, the community and Bellin Health.”

--more--

“Serving people with disabilities and their families since 1957”

Project SEARCH (www.projectsearch.us)

Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996 by Erin Riehle who was the Director of Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department. Since its inception, Project SEARCH has grown from a single program site at Cincinnati Children's to over 300 sites across the United States and Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities.

ASPIRO (www.aspiroinc.org)

ASPIRO has been serving Brown County communities since 1957. We believe that when we work together, erasing preconceived notions of what's possible, then no matter what challenges a person faces, he or she will find success. **Very simply, we see people first and their disability second.**

About Bellin Health

Bellin Health, www.bellin.org, is an integrated healthcare delivery system based in Green Bay, Wis. It has serviced people in Northeast Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula since 1908. Bellin Health has more than 3,500 employees and is known for its emphasis on preventive healthcare and is the region's leader in cardiac, orthopedics, sports medicine, digestive health, mental health, and primary care medicine. It is comprised of Bellin Hospital, Bellin Psychiatric Center, 31 Bellin Health primary care physician clinics, and several retail health clinics known as Bellin Health FastCare. Bellin also operates Bellin Health Partners, a physician-hospital organization with more than 150 specialty physician members, Bellin Health Oconto Hospital, a critical care access hospital in Oconto, Bellin Fitness, and Bellin College. Through its Bellin-ThedaCare Healthcare Partners collaboration, the health system is also a participant in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Pioneer Accountable Care Program, generating \$10.8 million in savings since 2012.

About HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital has been delivering quality health care to Green Bay and its surrounding communities since 1888. Patients from Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan benefit from a comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women's services, emergency and trauma care, preventive care across the lifespan, digestive health, orthopedic, cardiac care, neurosciences, rehabilitation and pediatrics. An affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, the hospital's primary purpose is to continue Christ's healing love through the delivery of competent and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. HSHS St. Vincent Hospital has been named one of the "100 Top Hospitals" nationwide and is accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. As an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, we draw on the history of St. Francis of Assisi as we move to continue serving the health care needs of our area in Christ's healing ministry, caring for all people.

About Hospital Sisters Health System

Hospital Sisters Health System's mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 14 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

###