



**BLUEFIELD REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRMC Celebrates Internship Program With VCOM

Bluefield Regional Medical Center is excited about the opportunity to partner with the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) for a formal medical Internship Program. An intern in the medical field has already graduated from medical school, but does not have a full license to practice medicine unsupervised in the U.S. This period lasts for approximately one year. This program will provide an optimal learning experience for students to gain an appreciation for the many rewards of rural and community based medicine. The internship program will also increase the level of formalized medical training at BRMC. The hospital training experience will provide the students a hands-on approach in one-on-one academic services and traditional formal hospital-service-based education. Since 2005, BRMC has aligned with VCOM's third and fourth year medical students to provide a core clinical curriculum and a hospital training site for elective clinical rotations.

Bluefield Regional Medical Center celebrated the approval of the internship program with VCOM on Thursday, September 27th with a reception held in the Cherry Street Café on the BRMC Campus. Lynn Whitteker, BRMC's CEO commented, "As a teaching hospital, BRMC will have the opportunity to grow, recruit and retain future physicians. This program will allow local medical students to remain in the area, as well as providing an opportunity to attract physicians from outside the area." Dr. John M. Kauffman, Jr., D.O., Associate Dean for Postgraduate Affairs, stated, "The mission of the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine is to prepare osteopathic primary care physicians to serve the rural and medically underserved areas of our region. This is a win-win situation for VCOM, BRMC, the students, and the Bluefield community."

Dr. Ryan Cicenias, Bluefield Family Medicine, was also thanked for his work as the Director of Student Medical Education for the third and fourth year students. These students work with area physicians on a daily basis in the fields of Family Practice, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery.

Ms. June Shott was recognized at the reception for providing the funding to renovate and furnish the student dormitory, located conveniently on Stadium Drive.

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