

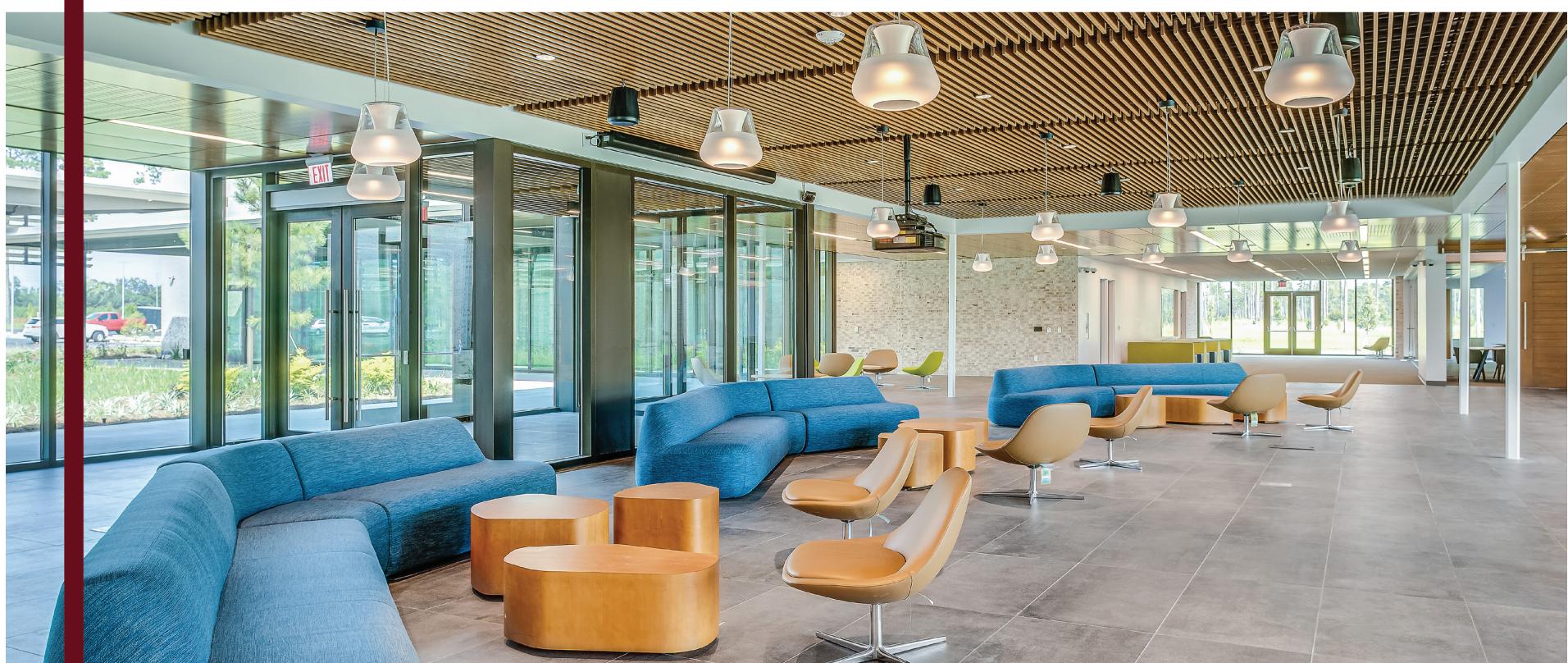


# WELCOME



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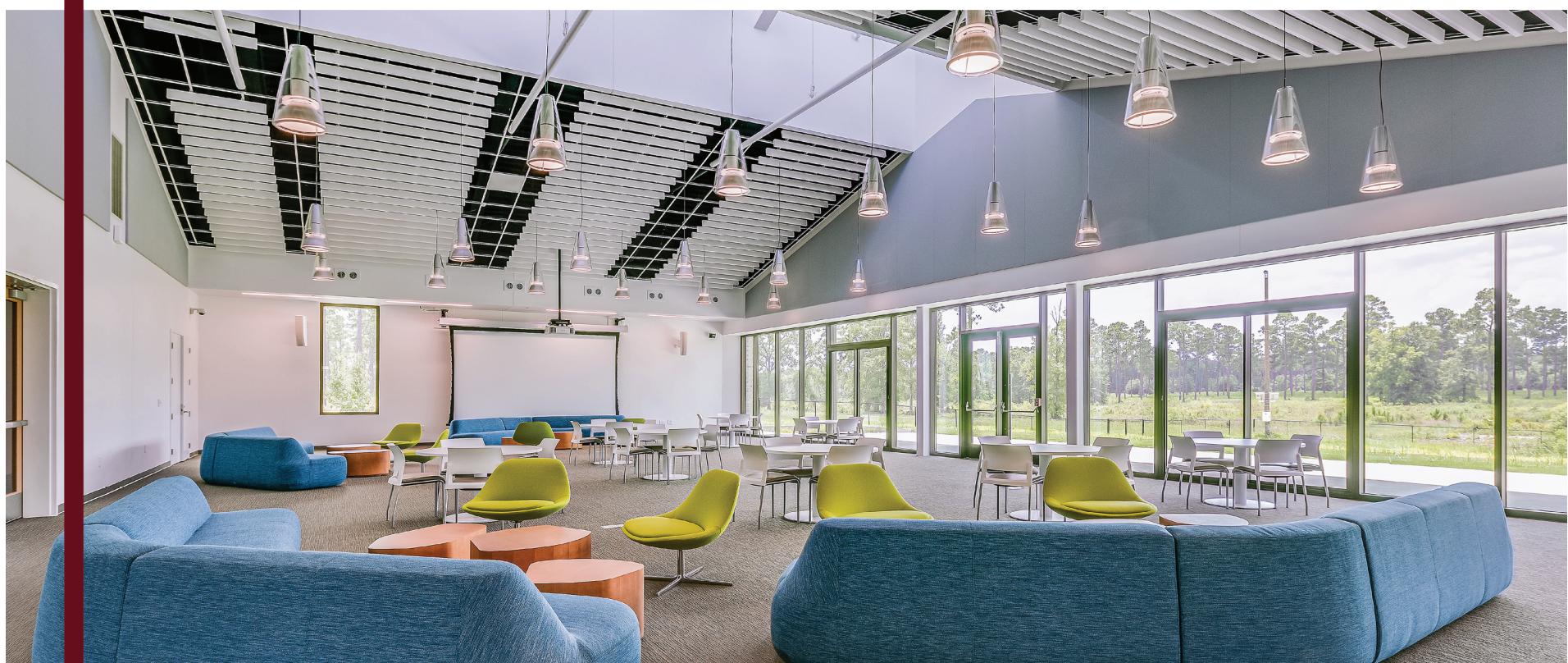




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# What is osteopathic medicine?

**By Barbara Myers**  
Philadelphia College  
of Osteopathic Medicine

There has been a lot of to-do, especially over the past two years, about the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine opening a four-year campus in Moultrie. The hoopla has died down. Classes have begun and students are learning to be osteopathic medicine physicians. Osteopathic is a long word. So, what does this really mean?

The simple answer is that, like an MD or Doctor of Medicine, a DO or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, is a fully-qualified physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States. MDs and DOs are similarly educated and certified, but there are some differences in their training and philosophy of patient care.

DOs are trained to believe that there's more to good health than the absence of pain or disease. Their whole-person approach to medicine focuses on prevention and helping to promote the body's natural tendency toward health and self-healing. In fact, osteopathic physicians work in partnership with patients to help them achieve a high level of wellness by focusing on health education and injury and disease prevention.

DOs learn to consider the impact that lifestyle and community have on the health of each individual, and they work to break down barriers to good health. They practice in all types of environments, including the military, and in every specialty, from family medicine to obstetrics, surgery and radiology, attending the same residencies as their MD colleagues.



PCOM photo

From their first days of medical school, DO students are trained to look at the whole person, which means they learn to see each person as more than just a collection of organ systems and body parts that may become injured or diseased.

From their first days of medical school, DO students are trained to look at the whole person, which means they learn to see each person as more than just a collection of organ systems and body parts that may become injured or diseased. They learn to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds, and they have the opportunity to practice these skills in their classrooms and learning laboratories, frequently with standardized

and simulated patients. Osteopathic medicine provides all of the benefits of modern medicine including prescription drugs, surgery, and the use of technology to diagnose disease and evaluate injury. It also offers the added benefit of hands-on diagnosis and treatment through a system known as osteopathic manipulative medicine.

In addition to studying a full curriculum of medical education, osteopathic

medical students take approximately 200 additional hours of training in the art of osteopathic manipulative medicine. This system of hands-on techniques helps alleviate pain, restore motion, support the body's natural functions, and influence the body's structure to help it function more efficiently. One key concept that osteopathic medical students learn is that structure influences function. Thus, if there is a

problem in one part of the body's structure, the function in that area and possibly in other areas may be affected.

The American Osteopathic Association serves as the professional family for more than 145,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students across the country. Osteopathic medicine is one of the fastest-growing healthcare professions in the nation with about one in four medical stu-

dents attending a college of osteopathic medicine. More than 6,500 new osteopathic physicians enter the workforce each year.

The osteopathic medical profession has a proud heritage of producing primary care practitioners. In fact, the mission statements of the majority of osteopathic medical schools state that their purpose is the training of primary care physicians. Osteopathic medical tradition preaches that a strong foundation in primary care makes one a better physician, regardless of the specialty that is ultimately practiced.

Today, when the challenge of ensuring an adequate number of primary care physicians extends to osteopathic medicine, more than one-third of osteopathic medical school graduates choose careers in primary care. Osteopathic medicine also has a special focus on providing care in rural and urban underserved areas, allowing DOs to have a great impact on the nation's population health and well-being. Over the past three years, more than a third of osteopathic medical school graduates indicated they plan to practice in a rural or underserved area.

Osteopathic medicine was founded in the late 1800s in Kirksville, Missouri, by a medical doctor, Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, who recognized that the medical practices of the day often caused more harm than good. He focused on developing a system of medical care that would promote the body's innate ability to heal itself and called this system of medicine osteopathy, now known as osteopathic medicine.

For more information, visit [osteopathic.org](http://osteopathic.org).

**WELCOME**

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*From The Moultrie Observer, Nov. 1, 2016*

# Medical school in the works

By Alan Mauldin  
alan.mauldin@gafnews.com

**MOULTRIE**  
—“Transformational” and “monumental” were among the adjectives spread generously around during a Monday announcement of a four-year medical school for the region.

If the planned project, unveiled to the public at Colquitt Regional Medical Center during a noon program, meets expectations, those striking superlatives will be well-deserved.

It also would increase the number of health professionals working in area hospitals, many of which are hard-pressed to find medical personnel to locate at rural facilities.

For the climax of the program, Jay Feldstein, DO, president of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Colquitt Regional President and CEO Jim Matney signed a memorandum of agreement.

The medical school and hospital have agreed to develop a feasibility plan for a South Georgia campus to submit to the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

“This truly is a great day for everybody,” Feldstein told the audience of more than 100 that included elected and economic development officials, medical staff, and Colquitt County High students who may one day be among the school’s students.

“We are truly committed as an organization to provide health care to underserved areas in both rural and urban environments. This is the begin-



Alan Mauldin/The Moultrie Observer

Jay Feldstein, DO, seated left, president of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, shakes hands with Colquitt Regional Medical Center President and CEO Jim Matney at the conclusion of signing an agreement that could bring a four-year medical school to the area.

ning of a long process, but it's a great start.”

During an interview following the program, Feldstein said that he would expect approval of the plans some time between May and August of next year.

The first class of students could begin studies possibly in August 2018.

The college, a not-for-profit operation founded in 1899, opened a Georgia campus in Suwanee in 2005 in order to focus on the need for more medical professionals in South Georgia.

Feldstein said that statistics show that most

medical school graduates settle close to where they studied, and that doctors are more likely to remain within 60 miles of where they do their medical residency training.

The medical school would create an opportunity to educate physicians, pharmacists and physician assistants who are needed in the region, Matney said during an interview.

“The greatest idea today was to create a regional opportunity for kids to get training closer to home, and allow them to stay at home,” he said.

No final determination

has been made for the siting of the college campus that will serve from Thomasville to Tifton to Valdosta and beyond, he said.

Wherever it's located, it will be huge, said Darrell Moore, president of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Development Authority, which has put up \$1.5 million toward the project.

Georgia is 40th out of all the states in the number of doctors per 1,000 residents, he said.

“The rural physician shortage is even greater than in urban areas,” Moore said. “Not only is

Georgia facing a physician shortage, we're facing a shortage of (physician assistants), nurse practitioners.”

Hospitals in Grady and Mitchell counties have expressed their excitement about helping them recruit and retain medical personnel, Moore said, and the Philadelphia medical school's campus here needs the support of

all the communities and the area.

“I've always said what helps the region helps all of us,” Moore said.

During an interview after the program, Moore said estimates are that the

medical school would create 500 direct and indirect jobs, not including the economic development spin-off in retail and housing associated with the influx of good-paying jobs.

After a similar school became established in Dothan, Ala., Moore said, they estimated it brought an economic impact of \$97 million per year.

Estimates are “that a new physician creates 23 jobs,” he said. “This is really going to be transformational for Southwest Georgia. It's going to change everything. I'm so excited, and we're just getting started.”

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*From The Moultrie Observer,  
May 16, 2017*

# PCOM picks Moultrie

## Medical college is a regional concept

By Dwain Walden  
[dwain.walden@gaffnews.com](mailto:dwain.walden@gaffnews.com)

**MOULTRIE** — Moultrie and Colquitt County will be the home of a medical college with an economic impact on the area that could be near \$90 million annually — pending accreditation approval.

Students may begin studies as early as fall of 2018. The site for construction has yet to be announced. Reportedly several viable sites are being reviewed. Local agencies have put \$3 million in the pot to help acquire property and construction.

The announcement came Monday during the grand opening of the regional office of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce in Tifton. Brian Ginn, chief campus officer of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), said he has submitted an application to the Commission on Osteopathic College of Accreditation for approval of a four-year teaching site in Moultrie.

"It's a regional concept," said Jim Matney, administrator of Colquitt Regional Medical Center, who has been at the center of this development since day one.

Matney, who also serves on the Moultrie-Colquitt County Economic Development Authority, said several hospitals around Southwest Georgia are part of this project.

Area hospitals will be instrumental in providing residencies for the students who train here. And neighboring communities will have the benefit of students being trained near home.

"This has been the best example of how communities across South Georgia partner together on a regional effort that will help to ensure long term sustainability across industries in South Georgia, enhance our quality of life and support our students' access to and participation in the medical education pipeline," said Darrell Moore, president of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Economic Development Authority.

Colquitt Regional signed a memorandum of agreement Oct. 31, 2016, with PCOM to develop a feasibility study for bringing a four-year medical school to South Georgia. PCOM is working to partner with colleges in South Georgia to recruit outstanding students into medical school and enhance the medical education pipeline through support of STEM programs in the school systems, Matney said.

PCOM already has a campus in Suwanee, Ga., and this will be a satellite campus of that facility. Initially, PCOM officials were looking at Tift, Colquitt or Thomas counties to build, but all will be a part of the regional concept to make it a success.

It will provide a four-year medical education to college graduates who would then attend a three-year residency before being able to practice medicine.

In an earlier interview, PCOM President Dr. Jay Feldstein said the first class of students could begin studies possibly in August 2018.

It also would increase the number of health professionals working in area hospitals, many of which are hard-pressed to find medical personnel to locate at rural facilities.

"This truly is a great day for everybody," Feldstein earlier told an audience of more than 100 that included elected and economic development officials, medical staff, and Colquitt County High students who may one day be among the school's students. "We are truly committed as an organization to provide health care to underserved areas in both rural and urban environments."

The college, a not-for-profit operation founded in 1899, opened a Georgia campus in Suwanee in 2005 in order to focus on the need for more medical professionals in South Georgia. Feldstein said that statistics show that most medical school graduates settle close to where they studied, and that doctors are more likely to remain within 60 miles of where they do their medical residency training.

The medical school will create an opportunity to educate physicians, pharmacists and physician assistants who are needed in the region, Matney said.

"The greatest idea

Please see CONCEPT, Page 6



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From The Moultrie Observer, Dec. 8, 2017

# AOA says OK to college

## Medical facility here 'will change demographics'

**By Dwain Walden**  
dwain.walden@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE — Two years ago it was just a rough idea being tossed about in Colquitt County Economic Development Authority discussions. Now it's official. A medical college will be built in Moultrie — a project that will mean an annual \$90 million-plus impact on the community.

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) received initial approval from its accrediting agency to establish an additional location in Moultrie.

"This accomplishment is a credit to the commitment of the Southwest Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium and all partners who have joined forces to bring this idea to fruition. We're confident PCOM South Georgia will have a positive impact on health care in the South Georgia region," said Jay S. Feldstein, DO, PCOM president and chief executive officer.

The idea of a medical college in Moultrie was the brainchild of Jim Matney, Colquitt Regional Medical Center administrator.

"The staff at CRMC voted 100 percent to support the project," said Matney, who noted that the college will not just impact Colquitt County but all of Southwest Georgia.

Matney said when the college initially opens there will be 22 staff members and 55 students. They will engage in a four-year program.

"In its maturity that might grow to 1,000 students," he said.

Matney said the idea was to have a college in an area where students would not have to drive much more than 45 miles. He said it made sense for Moultrie to be that location, being right in the middle of an area that includes Thomasville, Albany, Valdosta and Tifton.

Richard Bass, chairman of the Colquitt County Hospital Authority, said, "This is a big event for our community. It will change the demographics of this area."

Darrell Moore, president of the Colquitt County Economic Development Authority, said groundbreaking likely will be in early spring if not sooner. He noted that even though the approval is announced, there are many technicalities to be worked out such as location and design. Moore said there were four viable locations presented.

"This is huge...a tremendous asset to our community. It will make it much easier to recruit and retain physicians for this area," Moore added.

Moore noted much cooperation from leaders in area communities, throwing their weight toward this project.

"We had 20 or more letters of support from area leaders," said Moore.

Larry Franklin, who served as chairman of the EDA during the development of this concept, kept saying all along that he was optimistic that this idea would come to fruition, noting that it would change the economic landscape of the community.

"You're going to get some good headlines," he told The Moultrie Observer more than a year ago.

And he said he feels other economic impacts are on the horizon.

Local agencies put \$3 million in aid toward this project. The EDA put up \$1.5 million, Moultrie City Council added \$500,000 and Colquitt County Board of Commissioners tossed in \$1 million.

Plans call for a 75,000-square-foot facility. The target date to begin classes is August 2019.

"We're excited as we move forward in making significant investments in South Georgia in capital infrastructure, pipeline programming and the educational scope of the region. It's a pleasure to be working with physicians, healthcare facilities and educational partners in South Georgia. I am truly appreciative of the assistance of the consortium and its leadership, along with our founding anchor hospitals as this initiative progresses," said H. William Craver III, DO, dean and chief academic officer PCOM.

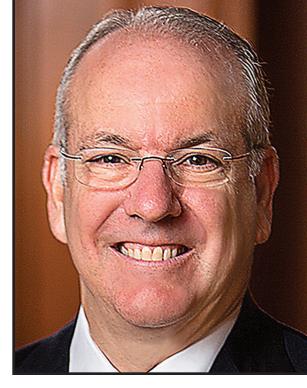
The branch campus in Suwanee, Ga., focuses on recruiting, educating, graduating and retaining health professions students from Georgia and surrounding states, a PCOM spokesman said. The Moultrie location will join with GA-PCOM in this focus, the spokesman added.

The Southwest Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium is a partnership between independent hospitals in Southwest Georgia designed to promote better health care for the region.

Last May, PCOM announced that it had chosen Moultrie as the site for its expansion. However, PCOM then had to make its case to the American

Osteopathic Association. The AOA had the final say.

In a press release to The Moultrie Observer, it was stated that "PCOM is a non-profit institution of higher education that has trained highly competent, caring physicians, health practitioners and behavioral scientists who practice a 'whole person' approach to health care — treat people, not just symptoms."



JAY FELDSTEIN



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Continued from Page 5

## Concept

was to create a regional opportunity for kids to get training closer to home, and allow them to stay at home," he said.

The Economic Development Authority has put up \$1.5 million toward the project. Moultrie City Council pledged \$500,000 to the project and Colquitt County Board of Commissioners added \$1 million to bring the total to aid construction to \$3 million.

Georgia is 40th out of all the states in the number of doctors per 1,000 residents, Moore said.

"The rural physician

shortage is even greater than in urban areas," Moore said. "Not only is Georgia facing a physician shortage, we're facing a shortage of (physician assistants), nurse practitioners." Hospitals in Grady and Mitchell counties have expressed their excitement about helping them recruit and retain medical personnel, Moore said, and the Philadelphia medical school's campus here needs the support of all the communities and colleges in the area.

"I've always said what helps the region helps all of us," Moore added.

Moore said estimates are that the medical school would create 500 direct and indirect jobs, not including the economic development spin-off in retail and housing associated with the influx of good-paying jobs.

After a similar school became established in Dothan, Ala., Moore said, they estimated it brought an economic impact of \$97 million per year. Estimates are "that a new physician creates 23 jobs," he said. "This is really going to be transformational for Southwest Georgia. It's going to change everything."



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From The Moultrie Observer, Feb. 23, 2018

# PCOM to break ground in April

## Medical school sponsoring essay contest for scholarship

*Editor's note: This story is published in a slightly different form from how it originally appeared in The Moultrie Observer. Details of the groundbreaking ceremony were announced in a press release that was emailed shortly after the Feb. 23 newspaper went to press, so it wasn't included in the original story.*

By Maria Galvez  
maria.galvez@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE, Ga.—The highly anticipated groundbreaking ceremony for the new Moultrie location of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, is set for Thursday, April 26.

According to a press release from PCOM South Georgia, an essay contest is

being held in conjunction with the event and is open to high school and college students.

The essay contest poses the question: "How can your generation work together to help shape the future of health in South Georgia?"

One high school student and one college student will receive a scholarship in

the amount of \$500. Contest rules can be found on their website at pcom.edu.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. April 26 in the 2100 block of Tallokas Road near the intersection of Veterans Parkway.

Darrell Moore, president of the Economic Development Authority, said that while there has not been an impact analysis done for the local area, they expect it to be similar to the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine's impact in Dothan, Ala.

Moore said that the city,

county and developmental authority have been working together for two years to initialize the process.

"A lot of things are still being worked on," Moore said. "It isn't coming together overnight but it has been gradual sustained work."

County Administrator Chas Cannon said that depending on the size and location of the construction site, any new buildings will add an assessment value increase to the community.

"Any new buildings could add to the tax digest county wide," Cannon said.

Manager Barbara Myers said that the school does not plan on offering housing for students, since an initial study concluded that the Moultrie and Colquitt County areas offered adequate and affordable housing.

A consultant group that worked with the college determined that housing would not be a priority in the construction of the school, said Myers.

The admissions department will begin offering information sessions in the region to inform prospective students about PCOM South Georgia, according to the press release, and session dates will be announced at a later date.

From The Moultrie Observer, April 13, 2018

## PCOM essay winners announced ahead of groundbreaking

### Staff Reports

SUWANEE, Ga.—"Together, Let's Shape the Future of Health in South Georgia" is the theme for the groundbreaking ceremony of PCOM South Georgia, a four-year medical program to be located in Moultrie.

At the ceremony, one high school student and one college student will be recognized as winners of an essay contest launched in conjunction with the groundbreaking. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 26, near the intersection of Veterans Parkway and Tallokas Road.

The Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center (SOWEGA-AHEC),

based in Albany, coordinated the contest, which asked students to respond to the question: "How will your generation help shape the future of health in the region."

Laura Calhoun, executive director of the SOWEGA-AHEC, said, "The future of healthcare in southwest Georgia looks bright if the essays submitted are an indication of our future providers! I am encouraged by the commitment level the students expressed in wanting to make a difference in the health of southwest Georgia as well as the level of understanding of the challenges we face."

Zizi Ohamadike, a senior at Lee County High

School in Leesburg, was the high school winner, while Julia Patterson, a senior at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, was the college winner.

Ohamadike is a current participant in the SOWEGA AHEC's Rural Health Leadership Program, while Patterson has worked with the AHEC since high school. Patterson participated in the SERVE (Students Embracing Real Volunteer Experiences) intensive program, volunteered for two years at the Farmworker Health Project, and was selected for the Pathway to Med School program last year.

Ohamadike wrote, "In

order to maintain the health of South Georgia, my generation must realize our responsibility to maintain a community in which quality health is feasible to all people. Such a responsibility demands that we possess the attributes of a servant leader that enable us to serve the community that nurtures us."

According to Patterson, "My generation must be the one that steps up and answers the call to serve our region. We must become physicians, physician assistants, nurses and other healthcare providers who are willing to commit to serving our communities long term."

"The satisfaction of

serving our rural community must outweigh the conveniences and amenities that could be found in a big city," she said. "... I think my generation has the potential to redefine the healthcare system of South Georgia."

The students will be presented with certificates and \$500 checks at the April 26 groundbreaking ceremony.

"With PCOM expanding into southwest Georgia, the opportunity to train and 'grow our own' continues to expand in order to meet the needs in rural Georgia," Calhoun said.

PCOM South Georgia is a private, not-for-profit four-year additional location of the fully accredited

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, a multi-program institution of educational excellence founded in 1899.

Located in Moultrie, Georgia, PCOM South Georgia is being developed to help meet the healthcare needs of the South Georgia region. The school has received initial accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

With a planned opening date of August 2019, PCOM South Georgia will offer the doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) degree to 55 initial medical students. For more information, visit [www.pcom.edu](http://www.pcom.edu) or call (678) 225-7500.



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*From The Moultrie Observer, April 27, 2018*



Kevin C. Hall/The Moultrie Observer

Dignitaries, including Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, center, throw ceremonial shovels of dirt to break ground on the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's South Georgia campus on Tallokas Road in Moultrie Thursday morning. Construction is set to begin almost immediately, and the school expects to welcome its first class in August 2019.

# Med school breaks ground

By Alan Mauldin  
alan.mauldin@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE — The main campus may be in Pennsylvania, but a new medical school that plans to welcome its first class to Moultrie in about 16 months will have a local feel.

Philadelphia College of Medicine's first class of 55 students is set to begin classes in August 2019 at a new facility on Tallokas Road, where a groundbreaking ceremony was held on Thursday.

"Our hope over time, a top goal, is to provide health care -- provide education to students in the South Georgia region who will come back to (serve) the community," said H. William Craver, PCOM's

dean and chief academic officer. "Our purpose in being here is to give an opportunity for students to train and remain in the community."

The college hopes to draw students from the area who will in turn help address the need for more physicians in the region.

It already has in place Georgia South Family Medicine Residency, located across the street from Colquitt Regional Medical Center, where graduates can perform the required three years of additional training.

PCOM expects to have 20 teaching faculty members plus support staff.

The Moultrie campus is not the college's first foray into Georgia. It opened

a campus in Suwanee in 2005.

After deciding to branch out in South Georgia, PCOM used a consulting firm to help select the site, said Jay Feldstein, president and CEO. Moultrie was at the "center of the hub" and thus convenient for students doing clinical work in surrounding cities.

In addition to the economic impact of the staff who will be teaching in the area, a physician setting up shop in a community brings a \$1.5 million benefit to the community, Craver said.

But the PCOM officials said that their emphasis is on helping to address the medical needs of the residents here. That would include the area's Hispanic

population that is integral to fruit and vegetable production in Colquitt and Tift counties and others in need of health care.

PCOM also intends to help address a physician shortage in the country. That shortage is greater in rural communities, which have a difficult time competing with larger cities in attracting medical talent.

By some estimates there could be a shortage of as many as 90,000 doctors or more by 2025.

The plan is that doctors will stay close to where they went to school and trained.

"Our educational plan is to help our students be sensitive to the needs of rural and underserved communities," Craver said.



Kevin C. Hall/The Moultrie Observer  
Moultrie Mayor Bill McIntosh, at left in foreground, speaks with Jessica Rivenbark, center, and an unidentified man prior to Thursday's groundbreaking. Rivenbark is director of the South Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium, a collaboration of the hospitals in Valdosta, Thomasville, Tifton, Moultrie and Albany to bring medical residency programs to South Georgia.

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*From The Moultrie Observer, April 27, 2018*



Photos by Kevin C. Hall/The Moultrie Observer

An estimated 2,000 people attended Thursday's groundbreaking for the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's South Georgia campus.

LEFT: Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle welcomed the PCOM staff to Georgia. He called the event "a commemoration of the future," looking forward to the doctors who would be trained there and stay in the community to serve its residents. Dr. Nancy Sheets of Valdosta State University, standing beside Cagle, translated the speakers' words into American Sign Language.

ABOVE: Officials salute the winners of an essay contest held in conjunction with the groundbreaking for the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Thursday. From left are college winner Julia Patterson of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Laura Calhoun, executive director of SOWEGA-AHEC, the health care education group that helped judge the essays; high school winner Zizi Ohamadike, a junior at Lee County High School; and Dr. H. William Cravey, dean and chief academic officer of Georgia PCOM and PCOM-South Georgia.



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*From The Moultrie Observer, July 6, 2018*

# Med school update

Experienced entities manage construction

**Staff Reports**

MOULTRIE — A unique blend of talent and experience has come together to design and construct PCOM South Georgia, an approximately 75,000-square-foot facility in Moultrie, where a projected class of 55 students will pursue DO degrees to prepare for careers in osteopathic medicine.

Sasaki, a global design firm based in Watertown, Massachusetts, and founded in 1953 by a Harvard University professor who chaired the landscape architecture department, led the site selection for PCOM South Georgia and is serving as the principal architectural firm for the project. Sasaki has hired the Sextant Group, a consulting firm headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to focus on technology to support goals for learning, collaboration and communication.

JCI Contractors of Moultrie, Georgia, is the construction manager for the project. Founded in 1989 by Lynn Jones and his son, Lyndy Jones, an Auburn University civil engineering graduate, the company has developed a solid reputation for delivering high-quality commercial projects across Georgia.

In addition, NBP Engineers in Macon, Georgia, is providing mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering work for the job. NBP Engineers was founded more than 55 years ago by George Nottingham Jr., a member of the Georgia



Submitted photo  
From left, Senior Project Manager Brett Diamon, Superintendent Joe Barnes, and Project Manager Jason Crosby of JCI Contractors of Moultrie review the plans for PCOM South Georgia.

Tech Engineering Hall of Fame. The firm has working relationships of several decades with the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, Mercer University, the Technical College System of Georgia and Emory University.

An onsite meeting was held in Macon recently between the architect, the engineers and PCOM representatives to discuss the project, while weekly conference calls between the entities provide a time for collaborative planning. And as the meetings occur for this fast-track project, Jim Boyd Construction of Albany, Georgia, has been carefully performing the site preparation work

since April 30. The City of Moultrie has approved a contract to provide water, sewer and electricity for the facility. Structural foundation concrete, steel and glazing packages are out for bid, and JCI's preconstruction department will soon release packages to subcontractors with a bid date of July 12.

The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) project director is Chief Facilities Officer Frank Windle of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who has more than 20 years of construction experience, along with significant and varied experience in facilities management. John

Khan, the associate director of plant operations at GA-PCOM in Suwanee, is assisting with oversight of the project. He has more than 18 years of facilities management experience and has recently managed a 20,000-square-foot expansion at GA-PCOM.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 26 at the 31-acre site of the new facility which is located off Veterans Parkway on Tallokas Road. The new institution will include classrooms, an anatomy lab, a Simulation Center, and a group study porch. A camera located at the construction site is capturing images each day and the feed is featured on the PCOM website.



From www.pcom.edu/south-georgia  
The PCOM South Georgia website features a running clock showing the days, hours, minutes and seconds until the opening of the medical college under construction in Moultrie.

## Clock is ticking on new medical college

**Staff Reports**

MOULTRIE — Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) administrators, along with construction managers, prospective students and South Georgia community leaders are aware that the clock is ticking toward the completion of PCOM South Georgia in Moultrie.

Aug. 12, 2019 is the projected first day of class and, with that in mind, a countdown clock has been started at <https://www.pcom.edu/south-georgia/>.

It notes the seconds, minutes, hours and days until classes begin at the additional location in Moultrie. In addition, construction progress can be viewed on a time lapse camera that can be seen on the website.

William Craver III, DO, FACOS, has assumed the position of vice provost for PCOM with academic responsibility for both Georgia Campus - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA-PCOM) in Suwanee and PCOM South Georgia. Michael J. Sampson, DO, FAOASM, has been named the associate dean and chief academic officer for PCOM South Georgia. He will soon

relocate to the region to begin the day to day operations of overseeing the establishment of PCOM's additional location, the college said in a press release.

In the meantime, the Office of Admissions is receiving applications from prospective students and will begin interviewing in late September, the college said, and the Human Resources department is accepting applications and interviewing candidates to fill open faculty and staff positions.

All interviews are currently taking place at GA-PCOM in Suwanee. However, a temporary office location in Moultrie has been selected and will soon be occupied by Sampson and other faculty and staff members while PCOM South Georgia is under construction.

The Office of Student Affairs has engaged Gail Dillard, PhD, to work with Sampson to plan for the 55 osteopathic medical students who will be accepted into the inaugural class in Moultrie, PCOM said. Dillard, of Moultrie, is the former interim vice president for academic affairs at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton.

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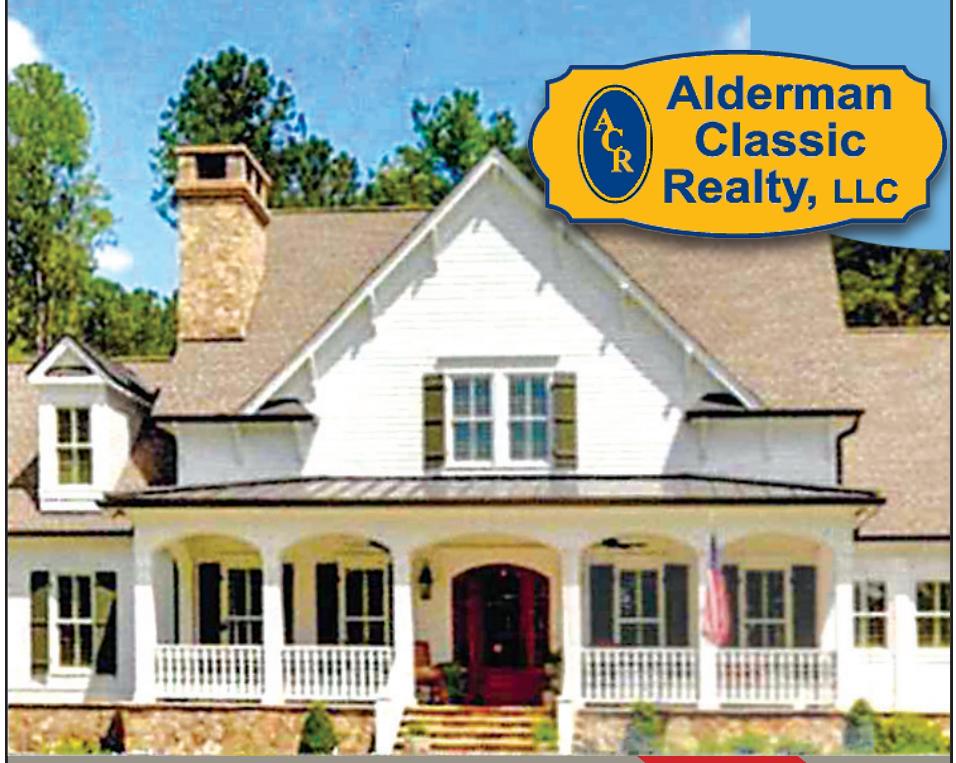
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*From The Moultrie Observer, Aug. 7, 2019*



Kevin C. Hall/The Moultrie Observer

Flanked by students of the inaugural class of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's South Georgia campus and assisted by PCOM officials, PCOM President Dr. Jay Feldstein and Gov. Brian Kemp cut the ribbon to celebrate the college's opening.

## Changing the face of rural health care

**Gov. Kemp visits Moultrie to help cut PCOM's ribbon**

By Kevin C. Hall  
kevin.hall@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE — Officials of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine promised Tuesday that the opening of PCOM's South Georgia campus marks the beginning of changes in rural health care.

"[We will have] a significant impact on the burden of illness in this region," PCOM President Jay S. Feldstein said in remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony on Tallokas Road.

Georgia Gov. Brian

Kemp, the keynote speaker for the event, also saw the potential in having a medical college in rural South Georgia.

"Health care is too expensive in today's world," Kemp said. "It's too hard to get to."

The school — which welcomed its first class of students for orientation this week — will change that, Kemp said, by training the medical professionals who will serve the region, improving access to the vital service.

Rural needs, including health care, have been

a major issue in recent legislative sessions and in Kemp's 2018 campaign for governor. He said the Legislature's recent session passed more than 20 bills related to health care.

"We're going to continue to work hard on that," he said.

Kemp and several other speakers at Tuesday's event described cooperation and collaboration among a multitude of stakeholders — hospitals, other health care agencies, colleges, the state government, local governments and others — to make the dream of a South Georgia medical college a reality.

John P. Kearney, chairman of the PCOM Board of Trustees, spoke in glowing terms about the future



Kevin C. Hall/The Moultrie Observer  
At left is Dr. Jay S. Feldstein, president of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. At right is John P. Kearney, chairman of the PCOM Board of Trustees.

of the region's health care.

"Together we shall set a new course for health care in rural Georgia," he said.

Kearney looked forward to expansions of the

school even as officials prepared to officially open it. He said the board envisions biomedical and psychological programs coming to PCOM South Georgia.

The goal with the South Georgia campus is the same as with the PCOM campus in Suwannee, he said: to make the school a hub for health care in its region.



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**Kevin C. Hall/The Moultrie Observer**  
Dana Brooks, assistant director of admissions, right, leads a tour of students through the classrooms of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's South Georgia Campus July 18, 2019.



**Kevin C. Hall/The Moultrie Observer**  
Students at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's South Georgia Campus look at a mannequin that can imitate a pregnant woman in the obstetrics and gynecology simulation room during a tour July 18, 2019. A computer operator in another room can make the mannequin move and can speak through a microphone. "Does it scream during a delivery?" one student asked. "Oh, yes," someone responded.

The Colquitt County Board of Commissioners would like to welcome Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) to Moultrie!





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