

NEWS RELEASE

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LECOM Health receives \$2.3 million resiliency grant to combat workforce burnout

Erie, Pa. (February 25, 2022) — The LECOM Health system has been awarded a Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) workforce resiliency grant in the amount of \$2,280,666, effective Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2024. This grant was created to combat the current burnout epidemic among the healthcare workforce.

As a leader in innovative, student-centered education and training, LECOM will develop a sustainable strategic wellness and resiliency plan that will be culturally embedded with aligned systems, processes, policies and rewards that can serve as a model for other professional healthcare organizations.

LECOM aims to accomplish the following goals with the help of this funding:

1. Assess and advance protocols to reduce and address burnout, suicide, mental health conditions and substance use disorders and promote resiliency among our healthcare workers, residents and students, paying special attention to those responding to the disproportionate needs of rural and underserved communities;
2. Deploy initiatives, resources, policies and procedures for staff, leadership and organizations;
3. Develop, enhance, and expand the mental health and wellness curriculum to effectively manage stressors, reduce barriers to mental health support, and raise resilience of the current and future health professional workforce; and
4. Evaluate, sustain and disseminate resources and tools to strengthen the wellness and resilience of the community of healthcare professionals and public safety workers.

“The global pandemic has submerged healthcare workers in a cyclical, high-volume pressure cooker for the past few years,” said Danielle M. Hansen, D.O., chief of staff for Millcreek Community Hospital, medical director for Medical Associates of Erie and clinical assistant professor of internal medicine at LECOM. “We’re committed to leveraging evidence-supported activities and interventions to prevent stress and establish a healthier baseline for current and future healthcare professionals. We are grateful for our competent and committed staff. We must find ways to protect and support them to withstand the challenging demands of healthcare.”

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Metrics including participation, standardized assessments, biofeedback, neurofeedback and participant feedback will be monitored, and rapid cycle quality improvement principles will be applied to ensure the program and interventions are achieving LECOM's goals.

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LECOM Health is a highly innovative, multi-faceted health care and education system. As the nation's only osteopathic academic health center, LECOM Health includes Millcreek Community Hospital, Corry Memorial Hospital, Medical Associates of Erie, LECOM Senior Living Center, LECOM Senior Living Communities, LECOM Medical Fitness and Wellness Center, LECOM Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, LECOM Center for Health and Aging, the Visiting Nurse Association of Erie County, the Achievement Center of LECOM Health and Corry Counseling of LECOM Health. At the core of LECOM Health is the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), the largest and one of the most affordable medical schools in the country. Since 1993, LECOM has trained more than 16,000 health care professionals through its cutting-edge, student-centered College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Dental Medicine, School of Health Services Administration and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at campuses in Erie and Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Bradenton, Florida, and Elmira, New York.