

NEWS FROM SHARON REGIONAL

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Sharon Regional receives \$1 million to construct new Technology Center at Hermitage LindenPointe Innovative Business Campus

LINDENPOINTE INNOVATIVE BUSINESS CAMPUS, MERCER COUNTY, PA.

Sharon Regional Health System, along with Hermitage city officials, Senator Bob Robbins, and Representative Mark Longietti, have announced the awarding of a \$1 million state grant to the City of Hermitage to be used for the construction of a new Technology Center for Sharon Regional at the LindenPointe Innovative Business Campus on Route 18 in Hermitage.

The grant was awarded from Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) through the joint efforts of PA Senator Bob Robbins and PA Representative Mark Longietti.

Sharon Regional plans to construct a 5,000 square foot Technology Center on Lot 19B adjacent to the Training & Workforce Development Center and the site of the future Technology Center of Excellence Incubator facility. The new Technology Center will house all of Sharon Regional's information technology (IT) components for its main campus at 740 East State Street in Sharon as well as its 19 satellite medical facilities throughout Mercer County and eastern Ohio.

John Zidansek, president and CEO of Sharon Regional, praised the efforts of Senator Robbins and Representative Longietti, along with Gary Hinkson and Gary Gulla from the city of Hermitage. "The timing on the awarding of this grant is phenomenal," stated Zidansek. "Sharon Regional recently completed the development of a multi-year IT Strategic Plan designed to give both patients and physicians seamless access to electronic medical records and health data. This \$1 million grant provides the perfect launching point for this process to begin," Zidansek added. "In addition, due to the proximity of the new Technology Center to the Training and Workforce Development Center, we'll be able to take advantage of all of the training facilities and programs that will be available in that location."

Sharon Regional's new Technology Center will house the most advanced equipment and technology available for electronic medical records, data storage, and other information technology applications. The Health System will relocate its entire IT department to the new Center upon completion and expects to add an additional 10 new technology jobs as the goals of Sharon Regional's long-term IT Strategic Plan are completed.

Another benefit of the project is the amount of space that will become available for new clinical programs, physician specialists, or other support services at the main hospital location in Sharon once the IT department is relocated to the new Technology Center.

Governor Ed Rendell recently authorized the release of \$1,000,000 in RACP funding for the project. RACP funding is intended to provide much needed economic stimulus and it is intended to assist in the immediate creation of quality, family-sustaining jobs. Gary Gulla, Assistant City Manager, was excited to announce the arrival of another high tech facility at LindenPointe and stated, "We have been working with Sharon Regional for many years in their efforts to strengthen the Health System and recruit quality employees and at the same time we have been working with state officials to secure additional support for technology-based job creation initiatives. The timing was such that we were able to leverage this additional funding to support the area's largest employer and create additional technology-based jobs in the community."

"I am very pleased to be able to work with John Zidanesk at Sharon Regional and Gary Hinkson and Gary Gulla with the city of Hermitage to secure this state funding through an existing program that will assist in the creation of family-sustaining jobs for our area," said Senator Robbins. "The continued development at LindenPointe ensures that our area will remain an attractive location for good family sustaining high-tech jobs which secures our region for the future."

Sharon Regional Health System is Mercer County's largest employer (with more than 1750 employees) and contributes more than \$260 million annually to the area's economy according to a recent report published by the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP). The Health System plans to initiate the design phase of the program within the next few weeks and expects to break ground in the fall with an anticipated completion date of the spring of 2011.

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