



saintlukeshealthsystem.org

## **NEWS**

**Jan. 26, 2007**

**For Immediate Release**

**Media contact: Kerry O'Connor (816) 932-8646, pager (816) 440-0001**

### **President Bush visits Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit**

*Hospital staff highlight role of digital technology in health care*

*LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.* – The hospital has been opened less than a year, but Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit has already hosted the President of the United States. On Thursday, Jan. 25, less than 48 hours after he emphasized health care technology in his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush toured areas of the hospital giving physicians and staff the opportunity to highlight leading-edge technology used to care for patients.

When Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit opened last year, it opened as an all-digital hospital—meaning patient records, tests, and lab work are computerized and instantly accessible by any member of the patient's health care team. Saint Luke's Health System President and Chief Executive Officer G. Richard Hastings and George Pagels, M.D., chief executive officer of Saint Luke's East-Lee's Summit, led the President's tour which included visits to the Emergency Department, Radiology Department, and the Intensive Care Unit. The President was able to see first-hand the electronic patient tracking board, the Picture Archiving System (PACS), the voice recognition system, and the eICU.

“Technology is an integral part of health care delivery today and it will be even more important in the future,” Hastings said. “Information technology not only enables us to enhance the quality of care we can provide to our communities, but it also helps to manage the cost of health care.”

After his tour of the facility, President Bush led a panel in a roundtable discussion focusing on his new health care reform plan. Hastings and Saint Luke's anesthesiologist Jim Kelly, M.D., were chosen to be participants in the roundtable discussion. Other participants included the Secretary of Health and Human Services, two small business

owners, a man and a woman who are currently uninsured, and a health insurance company executive.

*Saint Luke's East – Lee's Summit is part of Saint Luke's Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and a number of primary care practices, and provides a range of primary, acute, tertiary, and chronic care services. The health system is an organization in which the physicians and hospitals, functioning as an integrated unit, assume responsibility for the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, quality health care for people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

###