



NEWS

Oct. 27, 2006

For Immediate Release

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

Saint Luke's Health System recognized for commitment to employee health

System among five companies nationwide honored for advancing workforce health

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Its philosophy that keeping employees healthy is good for business recently garnered national recognition for Saint Luke's Health System. The Institute for Health and Productivity Management's (IHPM) Sixth Annual International Conference, "Transforming Employee Health into Business Performance," was the site for presentation of its Seventh Annual Corporate Health and Productivity Management awards to five employers on Sept. 27, 2006 in Henderson, Nev., at the Hyatt Regency Lake Las Vegas Resort.

"This is the seventh consecutive year we have recognized employers for commitments made to advance the total health of their employees," said Sean Sullivan, president and CEO. "These leading industry employers set an example for the types of health management solutions at work today - viewing health benefits as an investment strategy versus the traditional cost reduction model." IHPM recognizes companies for designing and implementing HPM strategies, thereby improving employee health, which results in enhanced productivity and produces better corporate results.

"The traditional cost-cutting measures for managing employee health care have not produced the needed results," stated Joe Leutzinger, chairman of the HPM Corporate Awards Committee.

Winners this year include four companies in the large employer category: Coors Wellness Center, Dell, Inc., Intel Corporation, and Saint Luke's Health System; and American Cast Iron and Pipe Company in the medium employer category. A consistent theme drives these companies' health management programs – healthy employees are good for business.

Saint Luke's Health System is committed to enhancing the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of its employees and formed the Integrated Benefits Strategy Committee (IBS) as its health and productivity management initiative. With the committed philosophy of President and

CEO G. Richard Hastings, "Our benefits package is designed to help employees balance home and work life. We encourage employees to exercise self-responsibility and take advantage of the many benefits provided by our health system," stated Dawn Murphy, vice president, Human Resources for Saint Luke's Health System.

Required elements of a successful award application are: 1) a solid corporate commitment to employee health and productivity; 2) program innovation and leadership; 3) well-defined health and productivity measures; 4) integration of HPM-related functions within the organization. The ultimate goal is to execute a strategy that measures and manages the corporate investment in human capital to increase its value.

About IHPM

The Institute for Health and Productivity Management (IHPM) is a global enterprise founded in 1997 to establish the full value of employee health and maximize its impact on business performance. It does this by helping employers identify the total cost impact of employee illness on business performance; choose the best opportunities to reduce that impact and improve performance; and measure the success of their efforts.

Saint Luke's Health System consists of 11 area hospitals and many 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.

###