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## **EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF NEW SURGICAL TOWER AT ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL HEALTH CENTER**

***Ribbon-Cutting Marks Latest Progress on \$140 Million Central New York REDC Round One Priority Project That Will Create and Retain More Than 3,000 Jobs***

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Kenneth Adams today announced the completion of the new Christina M. Nappi Surgical Tower, a major component of an overall \$140 million, Phase 2B expansion of St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse. The project, which is a Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNY REDC) priority project, will create 150 new healthcare positions and retain more than 2,900 jobs at the hospital.

"Today's ribbon-cutting brings to fruition a key proposal of Central New York's regional economic development plan. St. Joseph's expansion has been an influential driver of economic development in Central New York, bolstering the healthcare sector while creating and retaining thousands of jobs," Commissioner Adams said. "Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, innovative public-private partnerships such as this continue to result in expanded community resources and increased economic growth in every region of the State."

"The new Christina M. Nappi Surgical Tower goes beyond a capital infrastructure investment to help meet the community's growing demand for healthcare services," said CNY REDC co-chairs Robert Simpson, president of CenterState CEO, and Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud. "St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center has made revitalization of its surrounding Northside neighborhood and involvement in the community an institution-wide priority. This project epitomizes the implementation of the CNY REDC's strategies by strengthening one of the region's key industries, providing workforce opportunities, and reinvesting in our neighborhoods."

The completion of the surgical tower marks the latest and most significant progress achieved on St. Joseph's expansion, called Phase 2B, since it broke ground in April 2012. It is located on the north end of the hospital campus on Syracuse's North side and features private rooms and the latest in healthcare innovations, as well as more spacious rooms and corridors to allow for natural light. The 104,000 square foot surgical tower includes 110 private patient rooms and state-of-the-art technology, and also includes a PeriAnesthesia Care Unit, expanded Medical and Surgical Intensive Care Units and family waiting areas.

St. Joseph's was awarded a \$2.5 million grant by the Central New York REDC as part of the first round of the Regional Council initiative to complete the expansion. The project's construction has provided economic opportunity for local residents and businesses, generating over 400 long-term construction jobs (nearly 90 percent of which went to individuals from within a 75-mile radius) and 660,000 construction man hours, involved over 1,100 predominantly local contractors for supplies and services, and utilized over 85 percent local union labor. The 150 permanent healthcare jobs that will be created include salaries of up to \$90,000.

Kathryn Ruscitto, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center said, "Our expansion projects have served as a catalyst for Syracuse's North Side revitalization and we are proud to lead the way. We care deeply about the communities in which we serve and feel it's our duty to contribute to their well-being not only from a medical standpoint but also from a community health standpoint. This project, with all its innovations, will provide enhanced healthcare services in a high-tech, healing environment."

With the construction of 200,000 square feet of new facilities, the full St. Joseph's expansion is a transformational healthcare and economic development project for Syracuse and the entire Central New York region. The expansion also will feature a 73,000 square foot surgical suite with 14 operating rooms, a 12,100 square foot central sterile unit (the area of the hospital responsible for washing, sterilizing and distributing patient care equipment and instruments), and the construction of 72 private patient rooms. Finally, a greenway connection to North side businesses, green space, and campus lighting will be added to the North end of St. Joseph's Prospect Hill campus.

This showcase "green" project is seeking LEED silver certification and aligns with state and national energy conservation goals. Phase 2A and 2B together comprise one of the largest green healthcare construction projects in the Northeast.

In addition to the \$2.5 million grant from Empire State Development awarded to the hospital as a result of the Regional Council initiative, St. Joseph's is financing the entire expansion project in several ways, including an inducement of \$177 million for tax exempt bonding from the Onondaga Civic Development Corporation, a local development corporation formed by Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney. The Corporation has the authority to assist not-for-profit organizations that undertake economic development projects by the Onondaga County Legislature. The remainder of the investment will come from hospital reserves, as well as St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation's Generations capital campaign.

U.S. Representative Dan Maffei said, “St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center has been an important institution in Central New York for nearly 150 years, and it has continued to grow thanks in part to partnerships like these with the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council and the Onondaga Civic Development Corporation. This new state-of-the-art facility is an investment for our economy and the overall health of our community that will create jobs and allow St. Joseph’s to expand its already excellent medical care to patients. I applaud Governor Cuomo and Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney for their work to make this expansion project a reality.”

Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney said, “St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center is one of our community’s most important assets and Onondaga County is proud to have played a role in financing their expansion. Today’s opening of St. Joseph’s LEED Silver expansion is excellent news for their patients and for the more than 2,900 Central New Yorkers who work there. Thank you and congratulations to St. Joseph’s Hospital. Governor Cuomo has made every effort to support job creation across Upstate New York and this project is successful because of those efforts. Thank you to Governor Cuomo and the Regional Economic Development Council for their support of this project; projects like these are rarely possible without State support, and we appreciate it.”

Senator David J. Valesky said, “The new surgical tower will be an asset to the entire Central New York region. St. Joseph’s and the CNY REDC should be commended for their shared vision on this project, which will not only expand access to quality healthcare, but also provide much needed jobs, economic development and neighborhood revitalization.”

Senator John A. DeFrancisco said, “This is a major milestone for St. Joseph’s public-private hospital expansion – an exciting, state-of-the-art project that is helping to transform the North Side of Syracuse by improving healthcare for the region and generating both short term and long term jobs for Central New York.”

Assemblymember Bill Magnarelli said, “The powerful impact that St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center has made with the addition of this state-of-the-art medical facility will benefit not only the healthcare in the region but will spur additional economic development activity in the adjacent neighborhoods.”

### **About St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center**

St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center is a non-profit, 431-bed hospital and healthcare system in Syracuse, N.Y., providing services to patients in 16 counties in Central New York State. Through prevention programs and the latest diagnostic treatment procedures, St. Joseph’s works with patients to achieve optimum long-term health. A 15-time winner of the National Research Corporation Consumer Choice award, St. Joseph’s is affiliated with Franciscan Companies and sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis.

### **About Empire State Development**

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency ([www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov) and [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

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