

St. Luke's Hires 20,000th Employee

Sam Kennedy

LEHIGH VALLEY - When Caitlin Kolba reported for her first day of work at St. Luke's University Health Network this week, she became the Network's 20,000th employee the personification of St. Luke's remarkable transformation into the Lehigh Valley's largest and most recognized health system.

"I wanted to apply to St. Luke's after talking to other people who worked there," said Kolba, 32, of Bethlehem Township, who is now employed as a clinical social worker in the extended acute care unit at St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus in Allentown. "Job satisfaction is very high. There are so many opportunities for growth."

After living in Virginia for nearly two decades, Kolba returned to the Lehigh Valley, where she grew up until age 11. While working at an independent practice in Allentown over the past couple of years, she came across many St. Luke's employees, all of whom spoke so highly of the Network that she became convinced that St. Luke's must be a very special place indeed.

She said she felt like she hit the jackpot when she received her job offer. "I immediately called my best friend to tell her because I was so excited!"

St. Luke's is – and will remain – locally owned and managed for the benefit of our community. Founded in Bethlehem in 1872, St. Luke's is a fully integrated, regional, not-for-profit health system providing services at 15 campuses and more than 300 outpatient sites. The Network continues to be headquartered in the Lehigh Valley and overseen by a board of trustees comprised of Lehigh Valley residents. With annual net revenue of

\$3.5 billion, it is an important economic engine providing family-sustaining jobs across a service area that includes 11 counties in two states.

"St. Luke's remarkable growth over the years is the result of the trust earned from the communities we have served over the course of our 150-year history," said Rick Anderson, President & CEO of St. Luke's. "This growth has provided the opportunity to attract employees drawn not only to our culture but also to our competitive salaries and benefits. St. Luke's is a caring organization that continually demonstrates St. Luke's employees are our Network's most important asset."

St. Luke's has received numerous awards as the region's best health care employer. In 2023, the Network was named a Top Workplace nationally, in Pennsylvania and in New Jersey. St. Luke's is the ONLY healthcare institution in Pennsylvania and the third-highest ranked health care entity in the nation to be deemed a Top Workplace in 2023. The Network was also recently named one of America's Best Employers for Women by Forbes Magazine. St. Luke's is the only employer in the Lehigh Valley to be named to the list and is one of only two health care employers in Pennsylvania to receive the designation. In addition, the Network was recently recognized by Forbes Magazine as the top-ranked employer in the Lehigh Valley and one of the best employers in Pennsylvania.

St. Luke's is now the Lehigh Valley's largest employer and most recognized health system, transformed by many factors, including new hospital construction and new outpatient sites.



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