

Become a Doctor for...FREE?! St. Luke's Makes it a Reality

New Program will Virtually Eliminate Tuition Debt for Qualified Students.

By Sam Kennedy

Bethlehem, PA – For many young people, the dream of becoming a doctor is fraught: Medical school graduates are often saddled with extreme debt.

St. Luke's University Health Network is looking to change that and make it easier for aspiring physicians to fulfill their dreams.

St. Luke's announced that it will provide more than \$175,000 in tuition assistance for select medical school students who pursue a career in family medicine or general internal medicine and who choose to work at St. Luke's after graduation. In other words, a nearly FREE medical school education.

"It's a huge win for everyone," states Joel Rosenfeld, MD, Med, FACS, Chief Academic Officer for St. Luke's and Senior Associate Dean at Lewis Katz School of Medicine (LKSOM) at Temple University. "We will be able to help future physicians pursue the career they want, while essentially paying for their medical school costs. In turn, we will be able to grow our physician base and keep these vibrant, young doctors right here, in the Lehigh Valley."

Doctors are usually in their early thirties (and many are parents by the time they start their official careers. The average resident earns \$60,000 per year and is saddled with \$200,000 in education debt.

Family medicine and general internal medicine doctors – otherwise known as primary care physicians or PCPs – are in short supply in the Lehigh Valley, as well as other parts of the nation. With 88.5 million Americans set to reach age 65 by 2050, compared to 40.2 million measured in 2010[1], the need for primary care physicians and providers will only continue to grow.

Foreseeing this shortage and its impact to our community, St. Luke's partnered with Temple University 12 years ago to develop the Temple/St. Luke's School of Medicine right here in Bethlehem. The school enrolls 40 students per class.

Current students already benefit from significantly reduced tuition thanks to generous donors and programs that St. Luke's offers; however, this new program will cover almost all tuition for participating students.

"We are proud of our relationship with St. Luke's, which has grown throughout the years," says John Daly, MD, FACS, Interim Dean of LKSOM. "This substantial tuition program illustrates their dedication to their students and the community. As a previous board member, I'm not surprised; St. Luke's continues to set an example of innovative, collaborative health care."

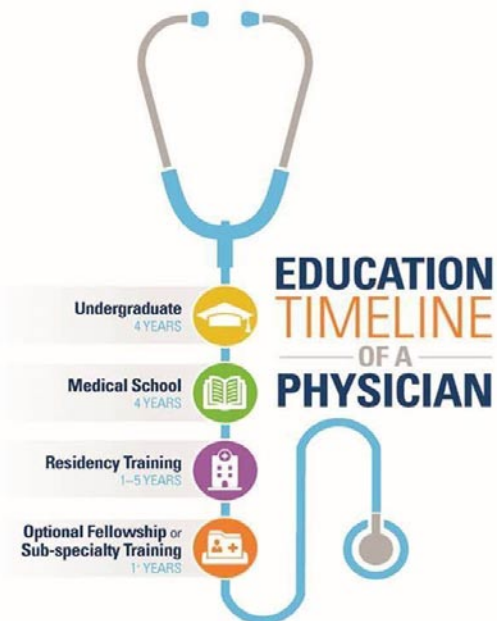
The tuition assistance program is open to ALL medical students, not just Temple/St. Luke's students. To be eligible for the tuition reimbursement, students must be accepted into and complete their primary care residency with St. Luke's and then commit to employment with St. Luke's for a period of time as a PCP. Students who do not commit to employment with St. Luke's are still eligible for a modified level of reimbursement.

"The goal of attracting and hiring more primary care providers is essential to the way we provide care," states Dr. Rosenfeld.

A good, ongoing relationship with a primary care physician is shown to improve a patient's understanding of their health and any conditions they may have. This, in turn, can improve health outcomes, lower costs and improve patient satisfaction.

"The primary care role is so important in medicine and this program will help students looking to pursue this critical field."

Apply to Temple/St. Luke's School of Medicine at <https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.slhn.org%2Fsom%2Fadmissions%2Fapplication-process-and-requirements&data=02%7C01%7CSamuel.Kennedy%40slhn.org%7Ce49dad05955d46d7ba1c08d8452f4bda%7Cef4fd2f84c9645ab9b157831920f55cf%7C0%7C0%7C6377335416725803767&sdata=HY5kV95BzW2df6R2G9hgxsj2gZC3nYHMnLTxuvrAd1k%3D&reserved=0>



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When John Hanley built his 4,000 square foot log home in a small Ohio township 17 years ago, he chose propane for heat and domestic hot water because it was an economical choice.

But, when propane prices increased and his annual fuel bill reached \$6000, he dropped the thermostat to 63°F to manage his costs. His wife, however, suffered with severe arthritis and lowering the ambient temperature caused her discomfort.

He began looking for a more affordable home heating solution. His research led him to outdoor wood furnaces.

Today's outdoor wood furnaces, also called wood boilers or wood-fired hydronic heaters are a clean, cost-effective alternative to the safety, mess and health concerns of indoor wood burning, while also providing a ready supply of domestic hot water.

The outdoor furnace heats water in an insulated water jacket surrounding the firebox. The heated water circulates through underground pipes to a forced-air furnace, boiler or radiant floor heating system that distributes even, adjustable and comfortable heat.

Hanley knew some townships placed restrictions on the installation of outdoor wood furnaces to address smoke emission issues. It was important for him to set a good example in his own community

by choosing a unit that was EPA qualified. Central Boiler, an American-owned company in business since 1984, helped create the EPA Hydronic Heater Program. Their E-Classic was the first outdoor wood furnace meeting Phase 2 of the program.

Central Boiler's new E-Classic models utilize a three-stage gasification technology and a self-regulating thermostatically controlled system that burns wood so completely that combustion efficiencies approach 100%. This means the owner burns less wood, with very little residual ash and virtually no smoke. By minimizing the emissions, this cleaner generation of outdoor furnaces is the optimum choice for people concerned with the environment.

Hanley chose an E-Classic to heat a 2,500 square foot barn/garage in addition to his home and hot water. Now, Hanley's wife keeps the ambient house temperature at 76°F. "She's happy and she has endless hot water for her whirlpool bath," he says.

Company reliability was also a factor in his choice. "Central Boiler stands behind their products and this sort of warranty service is really important to me."

Finally, because he cuts his own wood, he has eliminated his home heating costs enabling him to redirect the money saved to their children's university educations.

"This furnace is the way to go. You can't beat it," says Hanley.



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Parks

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The Superintendent's Compendium, signed on August 26, 2020, is available on the park website at: <https://www.nps.gov/dewa/learn/management/compendium.htm>. For those without internet access, hard copies are available by calling the superintendent's office at (570) 426-2418.

Changes in this version of the Compendium are intended to reduce litter and trash and protect wildlife and natural and cultural resources throughout the park. The following areas and activities are affected by these changes in regulations:

Raymondskill Falls and Creek- Raymondskill Falls is the tallest waterfall in Pennsylvania and has been one of the busiest sites in the park this year, often filling to capacity by 8:30 am on weekends.

The Raymondskill Creek Drainage, from the base of the lower falls, including the pool area, downstream to the confluence of the Delaware River and including the Schanno House (former) parking area and grounds on the west side of US Route 209 at Raymondskill Creek, is closed from May 1 to September 30, annually. This closure does not include the McDade Recreational Trail which passes through the area.

Caddoo Access- Located off Old Mine Road in Montague Township, NJ, at the north end of the park, this site provides primitive river access for car-top launching of vessels. It is now open Tuesday through Friday, during daylight hours; the site is closed Saturday through Monday. It was previously open 7 days per week.

Picnicking- Areas where picnicking and food consumption are prohibited include:

Raymondskill Creek, trails, and parking areas, from the park boundary to the confluence of the Delaware River, including Hackers Falls and Trail;

Point of Gap overlook parking area and riverbank;

Sawkill Creek from the park boundary to confluence with the Delaware River (including the Mott Street Bridge and the pool below the bridge);

Riverview Trailhead parking area for the McDade Recreational Trail;

Karamac Trail and riverbank.

Park visitors who wish to prepare, cook or heat food using grills, stoves, or other food heating devices must do so at a designated picnic area that has the appropriate facilities for those activities, like restrooms, trash cans, picnic tables, and parking. Designated picnic areas in the park include:

Bushkill Store Picnic Area

Milford Beach

Namanock Recreation Site

Smithfield Beach

Toms Creek

Turtle Beach

Watergate Recreation Site

The Superintendent has determined changes are necessary to maintain public health and safety; protect the environmental and scenic values; protect natural and cultural resources and park wildlife; and avoid user conflicts. "We have been seeing large groups of visitors arriving early in the day and remaining in the same area for up to twelve hours cooking, preparing, and eating one or more large meals," Chief Ranger Eric Lisnik explained. "Sites like our beach and picnic locations are made for larger groups. We have the right infrastructure, such as trash receptacles and restrooms, at those locations."

Along with an increase in visitation this year, the park has also seen an increase in trash and human waste, which in some cases is causing damage to sensitive park resources. "One concern is the potential for bear-human conflict caused by the substantial amount of trash generated and left behind by large groups of picnickers, especially in more remote areas," said Kara Deutsch, Chief of Resource Management and Science at the park. "Access to human food and food waste leads to habituation and wildlife-human conflicts, especially with black bears whose primary habitat includes many of these areas. Once they have identified a location as a source of food, they will be back."

Jennifer Kavanaugh, the park's Volunteer and Partnership coordinator pointed out that "while the park has had more visitors, and more trash, than usual, we've also seen a lot more people interested in helping out by becoming Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP's) this year." To find out about becoming a VIP and what volunteer opportunities are available, go to www.volunteer.gov or email Kathy Hudak, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, at Kathleen_Hudak@nps.gov.