

New president takes over this month at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s

OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton has hired a new president with a long history in hospital leadership in the St. Louis area.

Jerry Rumph will oversee the day-to-day operations of OSF Saint Anthony’s and its other medical facilities in the River Bend effective Nov. 16.

Rumph has 25 years in health care experience and has implemented solutions for operational, financial, quality and regulatory issues in addition to military



Rumph

leadership experience that includes expertise in disaster planning and use of telemedicine for primary care.

“Jerry brings a wealth of experience in everything from strategic planning to overseeing major capital improvements and growing services in communities where Mr. Rumph has served in leadership,” according to Sister M. Mikela Meidl, interim president Saint Anthony’s Health Center, executive vice president-chief ministry officer, OSF HealthCare. “We are blessed to have someone with his breath of experience to advance our goal of expanding access to quality, affordable health care for residents throughout the Riverbend.”

Most recently Rumph was chief executive officer for Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital in St. Louis. He also has served in a variety of leadership positions with SSM

Health, a Catholic not-for-profit health system based in Missouri. Some of his accomplishments include:

Oversight and management of a \$96 million hospital master facility plan and construction project. This included the addition of three patient care floors on top of the existing hospital and new clinical service departments and clinics which included a 35-bed rehabilitation facility that served as a hospital within a hospital.

As vice president of operations/chief operating officer at St Joseph Hospital-Lake St. Louis, drove a consecutive hospital score in the 90th and 93rd percentile respectively for employee engagement – the highest scores of all 20 hospitals in SSM Health.

Oversaw \$323,000 Telemedicine grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research and

Development Command to create a trial of a virtual primary care clinic and created crisis plans for bioterrorism, chemical, and radiological disasters/attacks.

“I’m looking forward to bringing my collective experience to OSF Saint Anthony’s Health Center and collaborating with both the hospital staff and community leaders with the goal to continue providing exceptional care to families in the Alton and surrounding communities,” said Rumph.

Rumph received his Bachelor of Science in biology at Northern Illinois University in De Kalb and a Master’s in health care administration from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

He takes over as president of OSF Saint Anthony’s following the departure of Ajay Pathak.

People in Business

Garner is new head of financial aid

Mesha Garner has been named director of student financial aid at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville after a national search. She assumed the role in October.

Her previous roles included federal awards coordinator and policy manager at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and financial aid specialist at Illinois State University.

SIUE’s financial aid office manages more than \$180 million in student aid annually.

Garner succeeds Sally Mullen who retired in May 2020 after serving SIUE for more than 30 years.

Garner earned a bachelor’s in family and consumer science and political science, and a master’s in political science/public administration from ISU. She is a currently pursuing a doctorate in education administration at ISU.



Garner

Engineering Research Institute, associate editor for seismic effects for the ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering, and co-chair of the 2006 ASCE Structures Congress in St. Louis. He is currently a member of the American National Standards Institute/Truss Plate Institute National Design Standard for Metal Plate Wood Truss Construction Committee.

A Piscataway, N.J., native, Cross earned a bachelor’s in civil engineering from the University of Maryland in 1984. He achieved a doctorate from The Johns Hopkins University in 1992.

Ameren VP retires after 42 years

Ron Pate, Ameren Illinois’ longtime senior vice president of Strategic Initiatives, has retired.

Pate joined the company in 1978 as a meter reader in Monmouth. From there he became a forestry journeyman and then went on to become a natural gas journeyman, a superintendent and director of safety with stops in Belleville, Jacksonville, Champaign and Decatur.

As a company leader, Pate also served as a vice president overseeing numerous parts of the organization, including stints in Operations and Technical Services, Utility Operations, Asset Performance and Compliance Management, and Delivery System Operations & Development.

“I am indebted to Ron for his more than 40 years of service,” says Richard Mark, chairman and president, Ameren Illinois. “His leadership has helped transform the energy sector in Illinois, and he’s been instrumental in so many of our successes. For me personally, he has been a great colleague, mentor and friend.”



Pate

experience with Allsup and its subsidiaries, will oversee an expanding team of claims consultants, who now have combined 440-plus years of experience in disability services, including former roles at the Social Security Administration and state Disability Determination Services offices nationwide. The team recently added nine consultants.



Geist

Knoebel names director of business development

Bryon Muir of O’Fallon, Mo., has been promoted to director of business development at Knoebel Construction.

Muir’s responsibilities include growing clientele nationwide in retail, retail center, restaurant, grocery, automotive and healthcare/wellness markets and pursuing opportunities to expand into new industries.

Muir joined Knoebel Construction as a project manager in 2011 and was promoted to senior project manager in 2019. He has 23 years of experience in the construction industry.

Knoebel Construction, based in St. Louis region, is a national general contractor specializing in retail center, multi-use, restaurant, grocery, healthcare and retail store construction.



Muir

Professor named Fellow of civil engineer group

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering Professor Brad Cross has been named a Fellow by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

According to the ASCE, Fellows have made “celebrated contributions and developed creative solutions that change lives around the world.” Only 3 percent of ASCE members hold the prestigious honor.

An SOE faculty member since September 1992, Cross performs research in the areas of historic preservation, the seismic retrofit of existing structures, structural dynamics, finite element analysis, and bridge instrumentation and design. He has extensive experience in the structural design and preservation of buildings.

Cross has served ASCE in a variety of positions during his career, including past chair of the St. Louis section of the Structural and Earthquake Engineering Technical Committee, founding member of the New Madrid Chapter of the Earthquake



Cross

Allsup names director of SSI claims program

Belleville-based Allsup, a nationwide provider of disability representation, employer benefits and return to work services, has named T.J. Geist as director of claims for customers at the initial application and reconsideration levels of the Social Security Disability Insurance program.

SSDI is the federal disability insurance program available to 156 million U.S. workers, funded by workers and their employers through FICA payroll taxes.

Geist, who has more than 17 years of



Petruska

Fellow grant goes to doctoral candidate

The Geosynthetic Institute has awarded a \$5,000 Fellowship Grant to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering doctoral candidate Pourya Kargar for his research proposal “Investigating Seismic Response of Geocell Reinforced Retaining Walls with Low Plasticity Backfills Using Nonlinear Dynamic Analysis.”

The GSI is a consortium of 71 organizations worldwide interested in and involved with geosynthetics. All types of polymeric geosynthetic materials are involved.

Kargar is a student in SIUE’s Cooperative Program in Engineering Science, working under the guidance of Abdolreza Osouli in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Osouli noted the national award promotes SIUE’s name among highly research-intensive universities. “Plus, Pourya will be able to focus on his research with this award and be regarded as an expert in the field of liquefaction and stability of retaining structures,” Osouli said.

A native of Kermanshah, Iran, Kargar has been honored for academic achievement throughout his SIUE career.



Kargar

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