

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

SBL receives the 2021 Women's Choice Award for outpatient experience

Award recognizes safe surgery practices and lower rates for complications and infections.

Sarah Bush Lincoln has been named one of America's Best Hospitals for Outpatient Experience by the Women's Choice Award, America's trusted referral source for the best in healthcare.

Hospitals aiming to provide the most appropriate and value-based care along with advances in technology such as minimally invasive techniques have shifted many patient cases to outpatient settings. As a result, hospitals have made significant strides in providing increased customer service to improve the outpatient experience.

"Overnight stays in the hospital can be very stressful and costly. With the advancement of technology, hospitals are now able to offer more

procedures on an outpatient basis which is much more convenient, more affordable and less stressful," Delia Passi, founder and CEO of the Women's Choice Award, said. "Women have demanding lifestyles with more than 70 percent of moms employed so making it easy for her to find hospitals that provide the best outpatient experience helps simplify her

life." Sarah Bush Lincoln President & CEO Jerry Esker added, "Technology and surgical techniques have changed dramatically in the last few years allowing our patients to have outpatient joint replacement procedures in which they actually go home a few hours after surgery. Not too long ago, our patients would stay in

the hospital for several days. It's truly a game changer in orthopedic care. This and other technological changes encourage us to stay ahead of the patient care curve."

The methodology used to select Sarah Bush Lincoln as one of America's Best Hospitals for Outpatient Experience is exclusive in that it evaluates patient satisfaction measures with a hospital

visit based on the criteria in the Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgery Survey (OAS-CAHPS). The evaluation process is the only national list that focuses on the opinion of females. It is the only award recognizing excellence in outpatient satisfaction based on robust criteria that considers the patient experience and clinical excellence.

To receive the award, hospitals must first be accredited by the Joint Commission (JC), The Healthcare Facilities Outpatient Program (HFAP) or Det Norske Veritas Healthcare (DNV). Accredited facilities are continuously improving the safety and quality of patient care and this certification signifies the facility's commitment in meeting regulations and best practices for the medical industry. The categories in the OAS-CAHPS survey are

assigned weights based on the feedback received from the Women's Choice Award Survey. Only hospitals that achieve rankings higher or equal to the national average in communication and care by hospital staff, pre and post-surgical coordination, facility ratings and patients' recommendation are eligible for the outpatient experience award.

Sarah Bush Lincoln is one of 294 award recipients representing the hospitals that have met the highest standards for outpatient experience in the U.S. by the Women's Choice Award.

For more information about the America's Best Hospitals for Outpatient Experience, please visit <https://womenschoiceaward.com/best-outpatient-experience>



Douglas County Regional Planning Office continues to operate in Tuscola

By Kendra Hennis

The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Workforce in Tuscola is under new leadership with Case Manager Joshua Taylor-Johnson. The office continues to be open at 401 S. Main Street on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but at this time, it is more efficient to call them at 217-278-9610 or email jtaylor-johnson@ccrpc.org to make an appointment.

Joshua serves as the Douglas and Ford County Case Manager under CCRPC. He has a background in emergency medicine and case management, working for four

years as an EMT and two in the drug and alcohol rehabilitation field. He is also currently working on completing his degree in social work. Joshua said he found his passion in this because he "has a strong desire to help others. I find a lot of job and life satisfaction through seeing others succeed and helping them along the way."

Joshua explained that the workforce development program is "an amazing program first of all. It can help so many different people with so many different things. We really look to help people who are looking for work find not only a job, but a career, that they are go-

ing to love and stick with for a long time. We want to help both the employees and employers find and keep people in positions so that they no longer bounce around from job to job because that doesn't help anyone. We also save companies money by providing training programs and employment programs that offset their costs."

Some of the programs and services provided by the workforce development program include career services, which are essentially just for training people and helping them find a job; programs to help people go to school to get degrees in high-demand industries; "on the

job training" where they would help someone get hired at a business and then augment the cost of bringing them on, making it easier for an employer to justify the risk in hiring someone; help at-risk youth stay in school, find out what careers they like, and help set them up for success.

An additional way the workplace works to assist the youth is through incentive programs. For example, if a student is struggling with a class, they could set up a homework day at the office where they could come work on homework. If they increase their grade in a certain class or all of their

grade, they could be provided with a cash incentive or other reward. Incentives are case by case and can be developed for each youth to best help them succeed. The workplace also provides experience programs for youth where they would place them at a local volunteering agency or non-for-profit, where they would then be paid to volunteer.

Joshua says "he is just excited to help people. Right now, I just need to get the word out to as many people as possible that we are here and operating. I just want to help the people, businesses, and the community at large. There are so many great

people in this area, and I want them all to have the best possible chance for success. Times are hard right now for lots of people and they are struggling to pay their bills. Let me help you. I have been there. I can't guarantee it will be a quick fix, but by the time you are done working with me your life will have changed for the better."

To contact Joshua or make an appointment with the Workforce Development Office, please call 217-278-9610 or email jtaylor-johnson@ccrpc.org.

Ill. students and youth groups receive \$83,000 of scholarships and grants

Farm Credit Illinois named 29 high school seniors as agriculture scholarship recipients and awarded 50 community improvement grants to FFA chapters and 4-H clubs in central and southern Illinois.

Agriculture Scholarships:

A total of \$58,000 in scholarships was awarded to high school seniors pursuing agriculture-related majors and careers. Each of the 29 recipients received a \$2,000 agriculture scholarship.

Scholarship selections are based on a combination of academic achievement, participation and leadership in school and community organizations, and the applicant's commitment to an agricultural career.

"Farm Credit Illinois scholars represent tomorrow's agricultural leaders," says Rod Stoll, vice president of marketplace engagement for FCI. "Investing in their education today - on behalf of our cooperative members - will help positively shape the future of the industry and Rural America."

The following students were selected to receive a 2021 Farm Credit agriculture scholarship:

Rachel Ash of Onarga (Iroquois County) will graduate from Iroquois West High School and enroll in the Parkland Pathways pro-

gram before transferring to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study agricultural communications. Rachel's parents are Joe and Katie Ash.

Sophia Biehl of Belleville (St. Clair County) will graduate from Freeburg Community High School and attend Southern Illinois University Carbondale to study agricultural education. Sophia's parents are Robert and Jill Biehl.

Abigail Bolen of Farmer City (DeWitt County) will graduate from Blue Ridge High School and attend Southern Illinois University Carbondale to study forestry. Abigail's parents are Emily and Jim Weiler and Ken and Carissa Bolen.

Katherine Bond of Galatia (Saline County) will graduate from Galatia High School and attend Lake Land College to study animal science technology. Katherine's parents are Jim Bond

and Micki Pritchett.

Donovan Chester of Tuscola (Douglas County) will graduate from Tuscola High School and attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study agricultural communications. Donovan's parents are Deon and Katrina Chester.

Seth Clark of Macedonia (Franklin County) will graduate from Thompsonville High School and attend Murray State University to study pre-veterinary medicine. Seth's parents are Dennis and Becky Clark.

Caden Cockburn of Johnston City (Williamson County) will graduate from Johnston City High School and attend Southern Illinois University Carbondale to study animal science. Caden's parents are Travis and Channa Cockburn.

Melia Eskew of Ashmore (Coles County) will graduate from Kansas High School and attend Eastern

Illinois University to study accounting and finance. Melia's parents are Mark and Angela Eskew.

Jordyn Gerlach of Waggoner (Montgomery County) will graduate from Lincolnwood High School and attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study animal sciences. Jordyn's parents are Eric and Angie Gerlach.

Charles Gum of Tallula (Menard County) will graduate from PORTA High School and attend Lincoln Land Community College to study agri-business management. Charles' parents are Randy and Jennifer Gum.

Meghan Hadden of Jacksonsville (Morgan County) will graduate from Jacksonville High School and attend Lincoln Land Community College to study agricultural education. Meghan's parents are Gary and Lisa Hadden.

Addison Hortin of Decatur (Macon County) will

graduate from Warrensburg-Latham High School and attend Wabash Valley College to study agriculture. Addison's parents are Mike and Karyn Hortin.

Luke Hubbert of Winchester (Scott County) will graduate from Winchester High School and attend John Wood Community College to study agronomy management. Luke's parents are Matt and Jen Hubbert.

Anthony Joiner of Carlinville (Macoupin County) will graduate from Carlinville High School and attend Lincoln Land Community College to study agri-business management. Anthony's parents are Vicki and Greg Joiner II.

Shana Lueking of Centralia (Clinton County) will graduate from Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School and attend Murray State University to study agriscience technology, with a focus on communications and public relations. Shana's parents are Doug and Sheila Lueking.

Kate Miller of Macedonia (Hamilton County) will graduate from Hamilton County High School and attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study agricultural and consumer economics, agribusiness markets and management. Kate's parents are Lisa and Mark Miller.

Tyler Miller of Atlanta (Logan County) will graduate from Olympia High School and attend Lake Land College to study pre-veterinary medicine. Tyler's parents are Tara Miller and Jason Miller.

Alexis Mudd of Red Bud (Monroe County) will graduate from Waterloo High School and attend Southeast Missouri State University to study agricultural education and agribusiness management. Alexis' parents are Scott and Liz Mudd.

Isabella Murphy of Farmersville (Montgomery County) will graduate from Sacred Heart-Griffin High School and attend the University of Missouri to study animal sciences. Isabella's parents are Courtney and Molly Murphy.

Hayley Pitts of Olney (Richland County) will graduate from Richland County High School and attend Lake Land College to study pre-veterinary medicine. Hayley's parents are Brent and Sheri Pitts.

Molly Reed of Shipman (Macoupin County) will graduate from Southwestern High School and attend Western Illinois University to study agricultural business. Molly's parents are Anthony and Kimberly Reed.

Grace Rincker of Stras-

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