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French Hospital Medical Center at Forefront of Health Care with Completion of Copeland Health Education Pavilion
First-of-its-kind pavilion will provide community with the most advanced health care research facilities and educational resources

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – October 27, 2015 – French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC), a member of the network of Dignity Health Central Coast facilities, is proud to announce the highly anticipated opening of the innovative Copeland Health Education Pavilion, further propelling FHMC into a new era of health care capabilities.

Hospital staff, physicians, board members, donors, and community members are invited to attend the **grand opening celebration of the Copeland Health Education Pavilion on Tuesday, November 17 at 10:30 a.m.** Attendees are invited to gather for a grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting with self-guided tours of San Luis Obispo’s newest and one-of-its-kind facilities.

“We are proud to be able to introduce this highly advanced health care research and education facility to the members of our community,” says FHMC President and CEO Alan Iftiniuk. “Our hospital has been serving San Luis Obispo County for nearly 70 years and our commitment to remain ahead of the evolving health care industry remains unwavering.”

Located on the FHMC campus adjacent the hospital, the three-story, 18,000 square foot facility includes two classrooms, a conference room, boardroom, and two advanced learning facilities: The Institute for Health Education and Research, and the James R. Flanagan Simulation Learning Center. The Pavilion also includes an educational auditorium that can accommodate 175 people with a standing room capacity of 298. Every aspect of the pavilion is outfitted with state-of-the-art technology and features to advance health care education for our community and staff.

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Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) met overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community. A Local Blue Plan may require additional criteria for facilities located in its own service area; for details, contact your Local Blue Plan. Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+) also met cost measures that address consumers’ need for affordable healthcare. Each facility’s cost of care is evaluated using data from its Local Blue Plan. Facilities in CA, ID, NY, PA, and WA may lie in two Local Blue Plans’ areas, resulting in two evaluations for cost of care; and their own Local Blue Plans decide whether one or both cost of care evaluation(s) must meet BDC+ national criteria. National criteria for BDC and BDC+ are displayed on www.bcbs.com. Individual outcomes may vary. For details on a provider’s in-network status or your own policy’s coverage, contact your Local Blue Plan and ask your provider before making an appointment. Neither Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any Blue Plans are responsible for non-covered charges or other losses or damages resulting from Blue Distinction or other provider finder information or care received from Blue Distinction or other providers.

The Institute for Health Education and Research is devoted to leading scientific exploration and prevention studies. Included within this institute is an “idea incubator lab” with the capability of collaborating on research projects interactively with California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) about disease prevention and health promotion on a national level.

Another aspect of our ongoing commitment to the advancement of health care is the James Flanagan Simulation Learning Center. This simulation lab is equipped with four simulation manikins, providing the opportunity for hospital staff to experience, react to, and treat realistic, pre-programmed patient cases. Two classrooms mirrored to hospital rooms ensure the most realistic and effective training possible. Typically found only at educational medical facilities and institutions, such patient simulators offer active training and education for our medical staff and nursing professionals. The acquisition of these teaching manikins was made possible by a generous donation from James Flanagan, a former FHMC patient.

The pavilion also provides a variety of preventive health education classes to the community through a new Community Wellness Program, all free of charge.

The generous commitment from two local couples made this multimillion dollar project possible. Jim and Sandy Copeland, and Tom and Pam Copeland, long time San Luis Obispo residents, recognized business leaders, philanthropists and devoted supporters of FHMC, donated the entire building to the advancement of health care for Central Coast residents. Donations are still being sought to support the advanced technology and modern interiors in the Pavilion.

To learn more about the Copeland Health Education Pavilion, or to donate, please contact the FHMC Foundation by calling 805.542.6496, or visit www.supportfrenchhospital.org.

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About French Hospital Medical Center

French Hospital Medical Center, located in San Luis Obispo, California, has been named one of the Nation’s 100 Top Hospitals by Truven Health Analytics, and is rated among the top hospitals in the nation for cardiac, orthopedic and GI

services. French Hospital has achieved prestigious designation as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission.

The Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center provides the latest innovative cardiac and imaging technology. The hospital is home to the unique Hearst Cancer Resource Center offering free education, resources and support to cancer patients and their families. In addition, an expansion and modernization project is underway at French Hospital, including construction of the Copeland Health Education Pavilion, which will provide community access to comprehensive health care education resources free of charge. French is a Dignity Health Central Coast hospital which also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital in Arroyo Grande, CA, Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria, CA, St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard, CA and St. John's Pleasant Valley in Camarillo, CA. Dignity Health Central Coast is an integrated network of top quality hospitals, physicians from the most prestigious medical schools, and comprehensive outpatient services including primary care offices, premier ambulatory surgery centers, technologically-advanced laboratories and imaging centers and a full service home health agency; all recognized for quality, safety and service. Each hospital is supported by an active philanthropic Foundation to help meet the growing health care needs of our communities. To learn more go to <http://www.dignityhealth.org/frenchhospital/>