



United Medical Center President Receives Award for Turnaround Efforts

WASHINGTON, DC (October 14, 2008) – For the first time in the award’s history, a representative from a medical facility in Southeast Washington has been chosen to receive the District of Columbia Hospital Association Presidential Award of Excellence. Eric Rieseberg, who serves as both the President of Specialty Hospitals of America (SHA) as well as the Chairman and President of United Medical Center, will be accepting the honor at the DCHA 30th Annual Banquet, taking place October 16th at the Hilton Washington.

In November 2007, Specialty Hospitals of America (SHA) was chosen by the DC government to take ownership of the failing Greater Southeast Community Hospital (GSCH). GSCH had been failing for years in meeting the healthcare needs of the citizens of Washington DC, and more specifically, those of Southeast Washington. Since SHA’s purchase, the facility has quickly regained the trust of the community and the healthcare population through not only the change in name, but the quality of medical care that they offer to residents. Some of the improvements include a vast array of new and state-of-the-art radiological equipment, new emergency systems, telemetry and intensive care monitoring equipment, patient furniture, among others.

For Rieseberg, these accomplishments are only the beginning of a three-year program to bring world-class healthcare to the residents east of the Anacostia River. In addition to improvements that will be based on the needs illustrated in the RAND report, a breakthrough study of healthcare quality in Washington, the hospital plans additional service improvements such as a new 120-bed skilled nursing facility, upgraded surgical suites, and a new 50-bed long term intensive care hospital. In short, the entire hospital is scheduled to be transformed aesthetically, managerially, and through quality of service.

Rieseberg believes that Southeast Washington residents deserve access to high quality healthcare services as those located in other parts of the city. This was the main motivating factor for SHA to take ownership last year. He has deemed the transformation of UMC “the toughest task of his career,” but has a personal commitment to seeing this hospital succeed instead of facing bankruptcy as it was less than a year ago. “I’m truly flattered that the Association is honoring the work of Specialty Hospitals of America and the employees of United Medical Center at their upcoming banquet. For us, we didn’t take over this hospital for financial reasons or boasting rights. The people in the community have been without quality hospital care for too long, and we were compelled by our mission to give them the services they need and deserve,” says Rieseberg.

About United Medical Center

United Medical Center (formerly known as Greater Southeast Community Hospital) has provided medical and community services to residents of the Washington metropolitan area since 1965. Under the leadership of Specialty Hospitals of America, LLC, United Medical Center is committed to its evolution into a full-service, state-of-the-art facility where physicians and staff provide expertise in medical and surgical specialties with the combined results of improved patient care and a sustainable business model.