LECOM Medical, Pharmacy Students to Receive White Coats

BRADENTON – Medical and pharmacy students at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) Bradenton, Fla., campus mark the transition from classroom study to clinical education when they receive their white coats on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014 at Harvest United Methodist Church (14305 Covenant Way) in Lakewood Ranch.

The School of Pharmacy ceremony for 136 members of the Class of 2017 will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by the presentation of white coats to 192 members of the College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2017 at 2 p.m. Local students receiving their White Coats include: medical student Matthew Hanewich, a Lakewood Ranch High School graduate and pharmacy student Amanda Peebles, a Braden River High School alumnus.

LECOM President and CEO John M. Ferretti, D.O.; Provost, Senior Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Silvia M. Ferretti, D.O.; Associate Dean for LECOM Bradenton Robert George, D.O. and Dean of the LECOM School of Pharmacy Hershey S. Bell, M.D., M.S. Med.Ed., will welcome students into their respective health care professions.

The white coat ceremony is a LECOM tradition inspiring these future health care professionals to commit to the highest principles related to the practice of osteopathic medicine and pharmacy. Their education takes them on a new pathway where they will interact with physicians and pharmacists in clinics, hospitals and pharmacies throughout the country. This is a time when students begin their pursuit of providing quality healthcare for the lifetime of their patients.

Keeping with the ceremony’s tradition, LECOM alumni will give keynote addresses. Travis Smith., D.O., (Class of 2009) will address the medical students, while Rebecca Nelson, Pharm.D. (Class of 2012) will address the pharmacy students. Dr. Smith is an emergency room physician at St. Vincent’s Southside Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. Dr. Nelson is completing a second-year oncology/hematology residency at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Fla.

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine offers innovative and affordable education in osteopathic medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. From campuses in Erie, Pennsylvania and Greensburg, Pennsylvania and Bradenton, Florida, LECOM believes that when mind, body and spirit come together the impossible becomes suddenly possible. It is a calling each and every one of our students embodies to become the best they can be. To prevent disease and treat it. To give hope. Can you hear the calling?