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**EXCELA HEALTH FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY
ANTICIPATES EXPANSION IN 40th YEAR**

LATROBE, PA, June 10, 2013 ...In anticipation of its 40th anniversary in 2014, Excelsa Health Family Medicine Residency Program is preparing to expand its training program. Established in 1974, the three-year residency offered under the auspices of Excelsa Latrobe Hospital will increase the number of physicians admitted to the program from 18 to 24 gradually over the next three years. The residency is dually accredited and affiliated with Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM).

According to Mike Semelka, DO, residency program director, “expansion supports Excelsa Health’s move to the patient centered medical home model within our primary care practices.”

Accepting eight residents per class has been determined to be an “optimal number to provide ample learning opportunities through various clinical rotations and family medicine office-based practice,” added Dr. Semelka. “It also supports the 24/7 coverage at our hospitals, and furthers the residents’ broader understanding of the continuum of care.”

Residency expansion was enthusiastically approved by the Excelsa Health Board of Trustees in August 2012 as part of the overall strategy to increase patient access across the Excelsa service area. The program’s growth coincides with the planned construction of Excelsa Square at Latrobe, a 114,000-square-foot ambulatory care center to be built in Unity Township, which will be anchored by primary care practices and supported by a robust complement of specialty physicians, diagnostic and rehabilitative services.

“The breath of experiences and opportunity for these residents to individualize their education is a definite strength of our program,” added Dr. Semelka. “Our graduates have gone on to become ‘traditional’ family doctors, urgent care doctors, hospitalists and physicians who practice ‘outpatient only.’ Some of our recent graduates have gone on to do fellowships in geriatrics, sports medicine and obstetrics.”

To date, the Latrobe Family Medicine Residency has graduated 165 physicians who are located coast to coast. “There are 100 of our graduates practicing in Pennsylvania and 40 currently serving as members of the Excelsa Health medical staff.”

To learn more about the Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program, visit www.excelahealth.org.