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UICOMP EXPANSION TO HAVE “POSITIVE RIPPLE EFFECT” ON FUTURE HEALTH CARE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

PEORIA, Ill. (Dec. 21, 2015) – Future expansion at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) is projected to improve the long-term health of central Illinois medical enterprises while injecting a boost to the local economy.

First-year medical students will begin school in Peoria rather than Urbana beginning in 2017. The restructuring, bringing 55 more medical students to Peoria annually, is expected to improve student recruitment and physician retention in central Illinois. The expansion also is projected to create 47 permanent and temporary jobs and inject nearly \$6 million into the local economy over the next two years, according to a recent economic analysis.

“Health care is currently the number one employment sector in the Greater Peoria area and our transition to a four-year medical school will only further strengthen this,” said UICOMP Regional Dean Dr. Sara Rusch. “Our growth will have a positive ripple effect across the community by improving our ability to retain medical students here to practice medicine and continuing to recruit outside physicians here to teach, practice medicine, and conduct scientific research; and this will in turn have an equally important and positive effect on the local economy.”

The expansion creates a need for 20 new faculty and staff at the College of Medicine alone and will generate an estimated \$2.6 million boost *annually* to the local economy, based on data provided by the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council through the use of an economic impact tool called EMSI.

An estimated \$2.5 million will be spent over the next 18 months in facility upgrades and in preparation for the additional students. Of that, \$1.5 million will be spent specifically in constructing a new anatomical lab for cadaver dissection and a technology-rich classroom for team-based learning. Total enrollment will grow from an average of 165 students to about 230 medical students annually.

Now-2018 Impact incl./Renovations			On-Going/Future Impact		
Impact Type	Employment	Revenues	Impact Type	Employment	Revenues
Initial Effect	33	\$4,350,000	Initial Effect	20	\$1,850,000
Direct, Indirect, & Induced Effects	14	\$1,458,483	Direct, Indirect, and Induced Effects	7	\$746,928
Total Effect	47	\$5,808,483	Total Effect	27	\$2,596,928

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