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WILLIS-KNIGHTON
MEDICAL CENTER
Shreveport

WILLIS-KNIGHTON SOUTH
& THE CENTER FOR
WOMEN'S HEALTH
Shreveport

WK BOSSIER
HEALTH CENTER
Bossier City

WK PIERREMONT
HEALTH CENTER
Shreveport

WILLIS-KNIGHTON
CANCER CENTER AND
PROTON THERAPY CENTER
Shreveport

WILLIS-KNIGHTON
HEART & VASCULAR INSTITUTE
Shreveport

WK REHABILITATION
INSTITUTE
Shreveport

WK INNOVATION
CENTER
Bossier City

THE OAKS OF LOUISIANA
Shreveport

PROGRESSIVE CARE CENTER
Shreveport

WK EXTENDED CARE CENTER
Shreveport

WORK KARE LOCATIONS
Medical Center
Bossier
Pierremont

FITNESS & WELLNESS
LOCATIONS
Medical Center
South
Bossier
Pierremont
Pierre Avenue

PROJECT NEIGHBORHEALTH
LOCATIONS
Shreveport
Allendale
Highland
Martin Luther King

Dear Willis-Knighton Medical Staff:

As you all know, we've been in the news a lot lately. We have heard open and passionate debate about the future of Willis-Knighton and the best ways to extend our proud legacy of healthcare service in northwestern Louisiana.

There has also been a lot of misinformation circulating, and I'd like to clear up some issues.

First, debate and disagreement is healthy when it is honest and respectful. It means that people feel strongly about the importance of our healthcare system and its role in our community. I have profound respect for the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and caregivers who give so much of their lives to save and enhance the lives of others. We all believe in the same mission – doing what is best and right for our patients and our community.

To be clear, Willis-Knighton has and will continue to have the best doctors and nurses on staff, and the best medical facilities in northwestern Louisiana. We have a solid and stable future ahead. Our ongoing goal is to listen and engage in constructive dialogue with our doctors, staff and patients, and to collectively do what is best for each of them.

I am very proud of what has been accomplished by our team during my tenure at Willis-Knighton. But I, too, am focused on our future in the ever-changing healthcare services world. Therefore, in order to ensure a seamless and orderly leadership transition in the coming years, the Board of Trustees and I are determined to continue development of a succession plan.

This succession plan will involve a nationwide search for a senior executive who will join our team, learn our systems, our values and our community, and become the lead candidate for chief executive officer upon my retirement. As we embark on that process, I am counting on your valuable input and will be soliciting your views.

Because of the leadership role Willis-Knighton plays in our community, and our steadfast commitment to safeguarding the welfare of our patients, finding the right CEO candidate – one who can successfully align the needs and interests of our doctors, staff, facilities and community and who is willing to work collaboratively with me and with you to do so – is a responsibility of the utmost importance.

As we work towards this transition, debate and discussion will continue, and we will listen to many voices. But it is important to remember at all times that our common bond and dedication to our mission is stronger than our differences. As we move forward, it is critical for all of us at WKHS to come together and to remain focused on our mission - doing what is best and right for our patients and our community and continuing to provide high-quality healthcare across our system.

LOUISIANA'S LARGEST HOSPITAL
— AFFILIATE HOSPITALS —

DeSoto Regional Health System, Mansfield

North Caddo Medical Center, Vivian

Minden Medical Center, Minden

Springhill Medical Center, Springhill

WEBSITE: wkhs.com

Willis-Knighton has been my life's work, and our successes as a team have brought immeasurable joy and satisfaction. I have been blessed to work alongside many of the finest physicians and healthcare providers in the United States. Over and over again, you have told me how you have passed on opportunities to practice in what others may characterize as bigger cities. You recognized, like me, that there is something special about this community, and something special about Willis-Knighton. Together, we have built the best overall healthcare system in Louisiana, and a leader in healthcare nationally. I hope you will join me in enthusiastically supporting our transition to bold new leadership that will take WKHS to even further heights as we approach our next century of service.

Thank you for all you have done for Willis-Knighton and for your continued dedication during this process.

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James K. Elrod', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

James K. Elrod
President & CEO