



POISED FOR SUCCESS:

Addie Patterson, DO '11, meets with a patient while on an intensive care unit rotation at OhioHealth Doctors Hospital last year. Patterson entered a preliminary internal medicine internship this fall at the Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio. PHOTOS BY JOHN SATTLER

Truly transformational

\$105 million to help address Ohio's most pressing health care issues

Our country's need for more primary care physicians is indisputable. Federal health care reform is expected to provide coverage for 32 million uninsured Americans by 2014, yet experts predict a national shortage of 45,000 primary care doctors within the next decade.

And Ohio is hardly immune to these issues. Health care reform will add coverage for 1.3 million uninsured people in this state. Meanwhile, projections indicate that the number of practicing primary care physicians statewide is markedly inadequate, with certain areas — particularly rural and inner-city areas — forecasting severe shortages.

It's a full-blown health care crisis, but a \$105 million gift announced in April from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation to the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine makes possible a bold plan to address it. "The money is going to Ohio University and its College of Osteopathic Medicine," says Richard Vincent, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation president and CEO, "but it's going there because it is, we feel, in the best position to facilitate the impact in the community with regard to service and education."

What sets OU-HCOM apart? Created in 1975, the college was mandated to educate primary care physicians, especially those who stay in Ohio and those who practice in areas of greatest need. Without question, the college has met that expectation — more than half of its alumni practice in the primary care fields of family practice, general internal medicine or pediatrics, and 56 percent practice in communities with fewer than 50,000 residents.

In 2009, OU-HCOM embarked on a yearlong strategic planning process and saw that its founding charge is even more imperative given today's health care challenges. It set forth a rigorous plan to establish itself as a national model for primary care education and service, and to become a leading research institution.

With the Foundation's support, the college will advance its vision: It will create a regional extension campus in Columbus by 2014 with a curricular focus on primary care and the urban underserved, and it will initiate a related increase in class size. It will build new Athens facilities for the Diabetes/Endocrine Clinical Treatment and Research Center, and the Ohio Musculoskeletal and Neurological Institute.

The plan also includes a major revision of the college's curriculum, the development of 93 new scholarships, and collaboration with partner hospital systems to offer debt relief as incentives for graduates to train — and eventually practice — in Ohio.

The Columbus-based Osteopathic Heritage Foundation worked closely with the college to develop this new direction, which clearly aligns with its own mission of supporting local health initiatives and enhancements to osteopathic medical education and research. In fact, the Foundation is a longtime OU-HCOM supporter; this gift brings its support to the college to nearly \$123 million in just over a decade.

"The Foundation's foresight, generosity and steadfast commitment to OU-HCOM have been central to many of our greatest successes," says OU-HCOM Dean Jack Brose, D.O., pointing to 2007 and 2009 gifts that helped build two new Athens-based facilities for teaching, research and community services.

In recognition of this latest gift and its power to transform lives, in June the Ohio University Board of Trustees approved the school's name change to the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"We believe that the involvement and generosity of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation will profoundly alter the future of OU-HCOM, Ohio University, and the quality of osteopathic medical care and education," Brose says, "by establishing this medical college as one of the preeminent medical schools in the nation — one worthy of bearing the name of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation."

Visit www.oucom.ohio.edu for more about the OU-HCOM gift.

SHARED MISSION, SHARED VALUES: The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation's \$105 million gift to the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine is the fourth-largest ever given to a U.S. medical school and ranks among the top 50 gifts ever given to a higher education institution in the United States. "We have never considered a grant or an award of this magnitude," says president and CEO Richard Vincent (pictured right, at a Baker Center reception held in honor of the gift). "Nor have we considered an award which has the potential impact that this one will have."

