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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM:** Jean Van Rensselar, McElroy Associates, 630-363-8081

**RE:** New Medical Hub Spurs DeKalb County's Economic Growth

DeKalb County, long known for its agricultural industry and more recently, for its technology sector, is poised to become one of the most medically advanced areas in Illinois.

The burgeoning medical service industry in DeKalb County is anchored by the recently completed \$102 million Kishwaukee Community Hospital and the \$16 million DeKalb Clinic, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open in August 2009.

DeKalb's Northern Illinois University continues to be a center of medical research activity and recently held the groundbreaking ceremony for its \$159 million Proton Treatment and Research Center—the first cancer treatment and research center of its kind in Illinois.

"It was an easy decision for the health system to build the new Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb County," said Joe Dant, vice-president of business development for the KishHealth System. "The continued growth of the county, our long-standing ties to a very loyal and supportive community and the developing medical corridor between Sycamore and DeKalb combined to make a convincing argument."

Further evidence of the growth is that 28 additional medical office buildings were completed during the last five years.

"We're seeing growth in several sectors right now, but the medical sector stands out as one that is making an enormous investment in our county right now," said Paul Borek, executive director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation. "The fact that developers of these ambitious and technologically advanced projects were eager to build here is proof that the future of business and industry is in DeKalb County."

In addition to all private rooms with individual thermostats, the new hospital includes:

- an outpatient services center with a cardiac clinic; pulmonary testing lab; pain management clinic; and cutting-edge radiology services;
- a new lab for advanced interventional radiology procedures;
- an emergency department with a flex room for fast-tracking patients with complaints such as sore throats and earaches – open from 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; and a trauma elevator large enough to allow an entire team to work on a patient;
- an inpatient physical therapy gym;
- a large conference center;
- full wireless connection; and
- a soon-to-come cardiac catheterization lab.

When completed, the 70,000-square-foot DeKalb Clinic, located across the street from the

new hospital, will offer all basic services and 13 medical specialties. Design features include a two-story atrium, extra-wide hallways and a coffee shop. The new clinic will bring in additional specialists to complement the 50 physicians on staff.

“In addition to providing residents with the finest medical care, our expanding medical community is one more enticement for bringing new businesses into DeKalb County,” Borek said. “Medical facility developers are extremely careful about examining statistical trends and projections before choosing a community – it’s the type of thing that makes other business developers sit up and take notice.”