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**Letter to the Editor of Courier Journal**

Dear Editor: Private colleges and schools in Kentucky and southern Indiana that provide training for medical careers have a direct interest in the successful integration and turnaround of Jewish Hospital and other former KentuckyOne facilities by U of L Health. The outcome is partially dependent on approval of public financing by the Kentucky Legislature, as described in the CJ on 11.19.19.

Recently, the deleterious effects of the closure of Jewish Hospital have received emphasis and profile. A more positive narrative deserves consideration, however: U of L Health is constructing a strong foundation for the development and completion of a biomedical campus that will enhance patient care, attract research and development resources, and boost economic vitality and opportunity across the region. The economic benefits will surely be shared across communities proximate to Kentuckiana for years to come.

Home-grown biomedical economic development requires great vision, strong leadership and a broad base of community support, built on a foundation of excellence and innovation by the medical community and local research universities. A recent example is the Phoenix Biomedical Campus in Arizona, a collaboration between Arizona's public research universities, civic leaders and local government. It is estimated that PBC has a \$1.3 billion annual economic impact, growing to \$3.1 billion in 2025. The campus has provided more than 9,000 new jobs and is expected to generate 22,132 jobs by 2025. In addition to hosting education and research facilities of the three state universities, the campus hosts the headquarters of T-Gen, a world-renown genetics research enterprise.

Professional training for nurses, nursing assistants, medical technology maintenance, respiratory and radiologic therapists and a host of other allied health professions depends on robust education resources, private and public. Members of the Kentucky Association of Career Colleges and Schools (KACCS) serve more than 4,000 students each year in many of these fields. The proprietary institutions consistently achieve high graduation, licensure and job placement rates, delivering an education model that puts people to work in their chosen profession, occupation or technical field. Giving graduates of KACCS institutions greater access to employment opportunities merits the full support of the entire private post-secondary education community.

KACCS endorses the U of L Health initiative regarding Jewish Hospital and KentuckyOne, and looks forward to growing the supply of trained professionals available for employment at the regional healthcare campus.

Chris Ernst, President - KACCS