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**PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN LANCASTER, PENN.
TO BECOME PART OF SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY**

PHILADELPHIA and LANCASTER, PA. (Jan. 19) – Today, leaders of Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences (PA College) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, announced a definitive agreement to become part of Saint Joseph's University. The merger will expand both Saint Joseph's geographic reach beyond Philadelphia and its academic portfolio with more than 20 nursing and allied health programs ranging from certificates through the doctoral level. The agreement also allows PA College to expand opportunities for students while preserving and stewarding its tradition of serving South Central Pennsylvania through excellence in healthcare education for more than 120 years.

"We know that programs like those offered at PA College are not only sought after by students, but they also have an exponential value in the communities where those students then go on to live, work and lead," said Cheryl A. McConnell, PhD, interim president of Saint Joseph's University. "It has long been our strategy to add nursing to our list of offerings for our students."

Facilitated by a shared strategic alignment, complementary academic programming, financial capability, and leadership and board commitment, both institutions see the agreement as a way to expand their missions with opportunities for students through:

- advancement of academic programs in Lancaster and adding nursing programs to Saint Joseph's Hawk Hill and University City locations;
- development of interprofessional and interdisciplinary programs at the intersection of societal need and student interest and;
- a responsive, sustainable academic portfolio that includes certificate and two-year nursing and allied health degree programs leading to family-supporting careers.

"By becoming part of Saint Joseph's, we have an extraordinary opportunity to continue PA College's valued role in the education and professional development of the regional healthcare workforce while expanding the geographic and demographic reach of its critically needed nursing and allied health programs," said Mary Grace Simcox, EdD, RN, president of PA College.

PA College's rich history includes a long-standing connection to its founder, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health (LG Health), where more than 800 employees are current PA College students and thousands more boast alumni status. PA College students' licensure exam passage rates are among the best in the nation and state in nursing – a testament to PA

College's strong curricula and excellent faculty and LG Health's outstanding clinical rotation experiences.

LG Health and Saint Joseph's are committed to future students and patients through a joint healthcare-education pipeline, which will continue to provide a pathway to rewarding, financially secure careers for Lancaster-area residents. They will maintain strong affiliation agreements allowing for tuition benefits and clinical placements and will engage in ongoing conversations to address evolving healthcare workforce needs. Additionally, the University of Pennsylvania Health System (Penn Medicine) will reserve clinical placements in the Philadelphia metropolitan area for Saint Joseph's nursing students.

Saint Joseph's and LG Health intend to continually evaluate and adapt educational offerings to meet Southeastern Pennsylvania's evolving healthcare workforce demands with a sustainable academic portfolio.

Nearly 2,000 PA College students will become part of the Saint Joseph's community following the closing of the merger, which is planned for January of 2024, after a one-year period of integration planning and efforts. Closing of the merger is subject to a variety of accreditation and government approval processes.

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About Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences

A dynamic and academically rigorous institution, Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences (PA College) is a private, accredited, four-year college focusing exclusively on the field of healthcare. Offering associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs, as well as a number of certificate programs, PA College provides professional development for healthcare workers throughout their careers. Located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the College attracts a select group of nearly 2,000 students to study with faculty who are experts in their specialty areas.

About Saint Joseph's University

Founded in 1851 as Philadelphia's Jesuit university, Saint Joseph's University prepares students for a rapidly changing world by focusing on academic excellence and courageous exploration. With an intellectual tradition distinguished by a foundational liberal arts core and diversified by strong professional programs in education, business, health and science, Saint Joseph's students are empowered, challenged and supported by faculty-scholar mentors to follow their own path. There are nearly 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students in the University's four schools and colleges – the College of Arts and Sciences, the Erivan K. Haub School of Business, the School of Education and Human Development and the School of Health Professions. With academic offerings in the most sought-after majors, including leading programs in the first-in-the-nation Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, nearly 100% of students are employed, pursuing advanced degrees or volunteering in prestigious service programs upon

graduation. The University's network of nearly 100,000 proud alumni keep alive the rallying cry – The Hawk Will Never Die.

About Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health

[Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health](#), a member of the University of Pennsylvania Health System (Penn Medicine), is an 805-licensed bed not-for-profit health system with a comprehensive network of care encompassing Lancaster General Hospital (LGH), Women & Babies Hospital, Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital (in partnership with Kindred Healthcare) and the Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital (in partnership with Universal Health Services). Its membership in Penn Medicine brings together the strengths of a world-renowned, not-for-profit academic medical center and a nationally recognized, not-for-profit community healthcare system.