

NEWS RELEASE

The School of Radiologic Technology program coming to an end

WILLMAR, Minn. (September 6, 2010) – Rice Memorial Hospital announces that a long-standing program, the School of Radiologic Technology, is coming to an end. Rice, however, will continue its tradition as an educational clinical site for medical students, as well as its close working relationship with Ridgewater College. Faced with the economic challenges of today's healthcare reimbursement policies and realities, the hospital continually needs to assess and streamline expenses. At a cost of \$300,000 per graduating class, it is not in the best interest of the hospital to continue the program.

Students currently in the School of Radiologic Technology will be able to complete their academic program. Rice will also honor their commitment to the six students who had been previously accepted to enter the program this August. No additional students or applications will be accepted for the school.

“It was a tough business decision that the hospital had to make at this time,” said Chief Executive Officer Michael Schramm. “Our primary focus is to provide health care, so it's essential for us to reduce costs without impacting patient care.”

The School has accepted six students annually into the two-year program, which is coordinated with Ridgewater College. “It's been a good program with a long history of success,” said Schramm. “The healthcare educational programs available in our community are strong, and we will continue to work collaboratively with Ridgewater College and other universities to provide good clinical experiences to medical students.”

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