

# Experience the 'Dickinson Difference'

**By Orrin E. Bailey**

For Upper Peninsula Business Today

Dickinson County Healthcare Systems invests in the Dickinson Community. Their motto, "Dickinson Difference," is representative of their community commitment to the health and well-being of the citizens of Dickinson County.

The Healthcare System has grown to become a top medical facility in the Upper Peninsula and has created partnerships with other regional facilities to ensure that the residents of Dickinson County have the best health resources available.

Dickinson County Healthcare System invests in the Upper Peninsula not only through their medical and health services, but through their participation in organizations such as the Upper Peninsula Healthcare Roundtable. Working with industry partners to address industry workforce challenges, Dickinson Healthcare Systems is working to ensure that the healthcare industry continues to play a significant role in the

economic viability of our regional economy.

Employees of this healthcare system have contributed numerous resources to developing the skills of our youth. The Administration has been proactive in supporting activities such as on-site internships and job shadowing allowing high school students to explore careers in health.

Dickinson Healthcare Systems created an "Explore Career Options" booklet for students, adults and parents to explore careers in health and to discover why Dickinson Healthcare Employees chose their respective fields. This resource guide is available on compact disc and connects students to careers in healthcare along each of the career pathways. "Hot links" take students to post secondary education information. Investing in our emerging workforce is critical to ensuring that quality care will continue to be available to Dickinson County residents.

Partnerships with post-secondary educational institutions enable students to participate in internships and clinicals, preparing them for licensing and place-

ment into the healthcare industry.

The health and well-being of one's community goes beyond the personal health of its citizens. It includes the economic viability of the communities in which we live.



**ORRIN E. BAILEY**

Healthcare has become Michigan's number one employer. Healthcare jobs tend to provide high salaries and quality benefits. The industry is more stable and less cyclical than other industries. A recent study by the Department of Labor and Economic Growth projects the state will need to fill more than 100,000 professional and technical health care jobs by 2015.

With over 800 full and part-time employees, Dickinson County Healthcare System is the largest employer in Dickinson County. The direct economic impact of healthcare and health-

care related jobs within this community is \$184 million dollars. The purchasing power of the healthcare sector contributes to the viability of the community. From purchasing cars, to homes, to groceries, healthcare workers are making significant investments in local communities. A strong healthcare system contributes to a good quality of life that contributes to business retention and attraction.

Dickinson County Healthcare Systems has named their commitment to the community, the "Dickinson Difference," and has adopted the following mission: "Vision, passion, perseverance, knowledge, skill, dedication, warmth, caring, technology, and people have come together like a finely woven tapestry to create a healthcare experience for our patients." From the physical health of individuals to the collective economic growth of Dickinson County, Dickinson Healthcare Systems continues to model investing in the Upper Peninsula. (Orrin Bailey is chief executive officer for Michigan Works! The Job Force and Six County Employment Alliance.)