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## **PAT HERMANSON RESIGNS FROM PMC** *CEO says he’ll pursue a doctorate*

POCATELLO — Portneuf Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Pat Hermanson announced Friday morning he’ll resign at the month’s end to pursue his doctoral degree in health administration.

The timing of his resignation will coincide with a change of governance at PMC, which is expected to sign an agreement with Texas-based Legacy Hospital Partners establishing a capital partnership to run the hospital. Hermanson’s announcement came as a total surprise to both PMC staff and administrators, said Mark Buckalew, chairman of the PMC Board of Governors.

“This is of his own volition,” said Buckalew, who has served as chairman of the board for four months. “Those of us who know him, it’s always been something he wanted to do. I think the timing was solely due to the fact that he wanted to pursue his doctoral degree.”

Buckalew said officials with Legacy never spoke of replacing Hermanson, who needed the freedom to travel in order to work on his thesis. Buckalew said a national search for Hermanson’s replacement has already started, and Legacy anticipates finding someone from outside of PMC.

Hermanson joined the hospital staff in July of 2001 as CEO of Bannock Regional Medical Center, owned by Bannock County. He continued serving as CEO when Bannock took over the assets of Pocatello Regional Medical Center in 2002, forming PMC. Before moving to Pocatello, he was an administrator at a hospital in Billings, Mont.

Hermanson spent Friday in meetings with staff members to tell them in person about his decision and was not available for comment. But he released a prepared statement: “No organization enjoys the tremendous growth and success that PMC has experienced without the dedication and effort of many people. I want to thank and congratulate each and every member of the PMC team for the fine work that they do every day on behalf of our patients and the community. This community is truly blessed with very talented and caring health care professionals. I am extremely grateful to the staff and volunteers at PMC that have made this a wonderful experience for Karen and me. We will long remember your support, encouragement and friendship.

“The time has come to get serious about finishing my doctorate. I look forward to having more time to dedicate toward my degree and to the challenges ahead. I am very confident that with the resources and talent that Legacy Hospital Partners Inc. bring to the community and a new governance structure at PMC, our hospital is on a pathway to even greater things.”

Bannock County Commission Chairman Steve Hadley credits Hermanson with strong leadership when the two local hospitals made a difficult merger.

“I think most people like his style of leadership. Some do not and voiced their opinion,” Hadley said. “He has done a tremendous job of combining the two hospitals into one. I just wish they could start making some money. Right now they’re paying for two campuses, and they’ve got some double charges. When they get the

new hospital in place, I'm sure they will turn it around.”

Hadley said the new hospital should be finished within 24 to 30 months.

Buckalew, a longtime official with Portneuf Health Care Foundation, said Hermanson helped in fund raising.

“Pat was one of those guys who always joined us. He was very valuable to us. He raised a lot of money because he was Pat Hermanson,” Buckalew said. “Pat is so concerned about health care, and he’s so concerned about employees of the hospital and how it’s operating.”