

**Twin Falls Times News, Thursday, March 24, 2011 -- by Nick Coltrain**

## St. Luke's CEO touts existing network

Jim Angle's goal at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center is simple: Provide the leadership to the four core groups that make the Twin Falls hospital work.

"At this point in time, what I'd like to do is to accentuate the positive," Angle, the new CEO of the hospital, said in a Wednesday interview. "The stamp at this time is to draw from our board, our physicians, our employees and our volunteers. We have four great categories of talented people, and to be able to provide leadership to where we are all working together on common goals ...

"It's really a leadership role, helping everyone work together. And I'd be very proud of that."

Angle took the helm of St. Luke's Magic Valley on Monday. He came from a CEO job at a hospital of similar size in Salem, N.J. Before that, he was a medical center vice president in Utica, N.Y., and director of mental health services at another New York hospital. His last stop actually included many parallels to the Magic Valley, he said: primarily agriculture, not densely populated by New Jersey standards, and mostly made up of pocket communities. But while he said he's comfortable with area demographics, his last job doesn't define him.

"My last stop isn't what I really come from. I come from 20-plus years of experience," he said. "I bring my talents to adapt to the environment. That's what I do. I'm going to bring some talents here to help lead us into the next several years in our state-of-the-art facility."

But before he can lead from the new hospital on Pole Line Road, he will need to get the operation there. He lauded plans laid out by his predecessor, interim CEO Mike Reno, and said his role in the move will be to provide coaching and oversight.

Angle said he was still getting acclimated to St. Luke's, but that he didn't see any changes he needed to make to its operation.

"That's not really my goal at this point in time," he said. "To be very honest and frank, I'm here to support the move, and assist with the doctors and staff going into the next several years as a viable regional medical center that's embracing growth, quality and certainly new service lines for the medical center."

He also wouldn't comment on a scuffle near the end of his tenure in Salem: According to a story on news website [NJ.com](http://NJ.com), his hospital looked at a plan to close its maternity ward due a stagnant volume of births. Under a license at the Salem hospital, the hospital was mandated to provide care for a majority of births, regardless of the hospital's ability to pay, according to [NJ.com](http://NJ.com).

He said it would be more proper for him to defer questions regarding that issue to the Salem hospital.

For the idea of cutting services that weren't financially feasible, he said, "I don't think that is in any CEO's management repertoire. Our goal is to meet the community's needs."