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by Erin Bamer

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Karl Keeler to step down as Saint Al's president

Keeler to move to Iowa as Mercy Medical Center-Des Moines head

NAMPA — Karl Keeler, president of Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Nampa and Ontario, is stepping down to take on a new position as president of Mercy Medical Center-Des Moines in Iowa.

Keeler was appointed as president of Saint Al's in 2010, coming from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he spent the previous six years managing another hospital that is also a part of Mercy Medical Center.

In his new position, Keeler will supervise four hospitals in the Des Moines area, and said the position is the next step in advancing his career. But he said he has enjoyed his time spent at Saint Al's.

"I've loved being a part of the Nampa and Canyon County community," Keeler said.

Nampa Mayor-elect Debbie Kling, who is president and CEO of the Nampa Chamber of Commerce, has worked with Keeler when he served on the board of directors for the Nampa Chamber of Commerce, and said he will be missed by the residents of Nampa when he leaves.

"He's been a great community leader," Kling said.

Keeler's last day as president will be Jan. 5. A search committee made up of the Saint Al's board of directors will select Keeler's replacement.

It was under Keeler's local leadership that Saint Alphonsus opened its new, five-story, 240,000-square-foot, \$80 million hospital near the corner of Interstate 84 and Garrity Boulevard this summer, replacing the organization's hospital on 12th Avenue Road.

Keeler said he has no doubt the facility will continue to run smoothly without him.

"We have an amazing leadership team here," Keeler said.

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