

## JCHS To Offer Four Year Emergency Degree

ROANOKE — Jefferson College of Health Sciences (JCHS), an affiliate of Carilion Clinic, has approval from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to offer a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Services beginning in fall 2009.

The new program will offer students a multi-specialty curriculum in two tracks: Fire-fighter, Paramedic, Emergency Management or Critical Care, Paramedic, Emergency Management. JCHS developed the program to meet the needs of agencies and departments across the region that provide emergency services to a wide variety of communities.

"Earlier this year, JCHS conducted a study of fire chiefs and EMS directors across the Mid-Atlantic region," says Glen Mayhew, assistant dean for Academic Affairs and Program Director Associate Professor for the new Emergency Services Program. "We found that 92 percent of those responding indicated that a graduate with a bachelor's degree would be very valuable to their department or agency.

And, 96 percent of them said that a graduate with cross-training in specialties, like firefighting and paramedic, is critical to the success of their department or agency."

Students in the program will have access to internships in both the field and clinical settings, including in engine and ladder fire companies and at Carilion Clinic facilities, like the Level 1 Trauma Center at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

"By adding the Emergency Services program to our curriculum at JCHS, we are taking another important step toward ensuring that we're prepared to meet the healthcare and emergency care needs of tomorrow," says JCHS president Dr. Carol Seavor. "We're proud of everyone who was involved in developing this program and look forward to welcoming our first class next fall."

The four-year Emergency Services degree will replace two Associate of Applied Sciences Degrees offered at JCHS in Emergency Health Sciences-Paramedic and Fire and Emer-

gency Medical Services Technology. Students currently enrolled in the two-year programs will be allowed to complete their associate's degrees, but all new students applying for the 2009-2010 academic year will be enrolled in the bachelor's program. A degree completion program in Emergency Health Sciences-Paramedic will continue to be offered through the College.

For more information, visit the new Bachelor of Science in Emergency Services Web page on the JCHS Web site at [www.jchs.edu/page.php/prmlD/562](http://www.jchs.edu/page.php/prmlD/562).

JCHS is a private higher education institution that focuses on providing healthcare education and is fully integrated with Carilion Clinic. Founded in 1914 as the Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing, JCHS now offers its approximately 1,000 students opportunities to become part of the healthcare profession, serving communities from southwest Virginia to the Shenandoah Valley and beyond.

More information is available at [www.jchs.edu](http://www.jchs.edu).

