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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **New Report Shows that Arizona Biosciences, Hospitals Need More Graduate Medical Education.**

Skilled, creative people needed to develop world class health care.

PHOENIX, AZ— Arizona has aggressive goals for health care, but a new report points to potentially weak infrastructure ties for developing the needed workforce.

According to *The Tie That Binds: Graduate Medical Education in Arizona*, a report released today by St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI), Arizona needs focus on Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the physician workforce to succeed.

Public investment in GME can leverage return on investment ratios as high as 9 to 1. Without continued investment, GME programs would be forced to downsize or close when Arizona needs a growing workforce of graduate medical residents and licensed physicians to serve its population and plans.

"This fresh look at GME in Arizona points to the need for health care and workforce planning at all levels of public and private governance," said Roger Hughes, SLHI Executive Director said. "Understanding, supporting and extending GME opportunities are critical to Arizona's future."

The report calls for:

- Establishment of an all-inclusive, collaborative GME Forum
- Continued funding of GME
- Expanded programs to encourage the development of GME

The complete *The Tie That Binds* report is available from SLHI or can be accessed on the web at [http://www.slhi.org/publications/policy\\_primers/index.shtml](http://www.slhi.org/publications/policy_primers/index.shtml)

### *About SLHI*

*Established in 1995, St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI) is a Phoenix-based public foundation focused on Arizona health policy and strength-based community development. For additional information, please visit [www.slhi.org](http://www.slhi.org).*

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