



## News Release

### Media Contact:

Lindsey Meyers

Cell 605-690-5062

[Lindsey.meyers@avera.org](mailto:Lindsey.meyers@avera.org)

### **Avera Announces Bob Sutton as Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer**

**Sioux Falls, SD, October 6, 2015** – Avera Health, the largest employer in South Dakota and one of the most robust health care systems in the Midwest, announced today that it has selected Bob Sutton to serve as Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, effective Feb. 1, 2016. In this role, Sutton will serve on the Avera Health senior executive team, reporting to John Porter, Chief Executive Officer, and will oversee the system's human resources function.

"Bob brings a breadth of leadership experience across a broad spectrum of organizations, as well as operational experience from one of our large regional areas," said John Porter, President and Chief Executive Officer, Avera Health. "I am confident that Bob will lead the development and integration of valuable strategies that will further enhance Avera as an employer of choice and help us meet the current and future challenges of our evolving health care landscape."

Most recently, Sutton served as Regional President and CEO of Avera St. Mary's Region which includes operations for Avera St. Mary's Hospital, Avera Gettysburg Hospital, two long-term care facilities and a multi-specialty clinic. Prior to that position, Sutton served as Avera Health Senior Vice President of Community Relations. Previously, he also served as President of the South Dakota Community Foundation and in leadership positions at South Dakota Petroleum Council, South Dakota Bankers Association, and Citibank South Dakota. He currently serves on the South Dakota Board of Regents.

"I am excited that this new position that will allow me to work alongside the more than 16,000 employees across the Avera footprint who contribute every day to providing excellent health care and wellness that helps people live better, balanced and more healthy," said Sutton.

Sutton will be taking on the role currently held by Bill McLean, Avera's Senior Vice President, Human Resources, who is retiring Feb. 1, 2016. Todd Forkel, Regional

President and CEO, Avera St. Luke's Region, will serve in the interim leadership role for Avera St. Mary's while a plan is developed to fill the position there.

Sutton received a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in philosophy and a Master's Degree in public administration from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Forkel has served as President and CEO of Avera St. Luke's since December 2011. His experience includes serving as senior vice president of operations for Essentia in Fargo, N.D., and director of radiology at Mayo Clinic. He is a graduate of Presentation College and Northern State University.

### **About Avera Health**

Avera Health is a network which has over 16,000 employees and physicians, serving more than 300 locations and 100 communities in a five-state region. Our ministry, our people and our superior value distinguish Avera. We carry on the health care legacy of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, delivering care in an environment guided by our values of compassion, hospitality and stewardship. For more information about Avera, see our website at [www.Avera.org](http://www.Avera.org).