

## **NEWS RELEASE:**

### **Avera Announces New President of Avera Heart Hospital**

Avera Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael E. (Mick) Gibbs to the position of President of Avera Heart Hospital.

Gibbs will begin his new role May 1. He will also serve as Cardiac and Vascular Service Line Leader for Avera Health. Gibbs and his wife, Michelle, and their three daughters will relocate to Sioux Falls from their home in Rapid City, S.D.

Gibbs has 14 years of experience in health care administration, most recently at Rapid City Regional Hospital as President, and before that as Chief Operating Officer. He has also held leadership positions at Sanford Health in Fargo, N.D., and Gordon Memorial Hospital in Gordon, Neb.

He holds a master of health care administration degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; a master of biomedical ethics degree from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; and a bachelor of speech communication from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

“The Avera Heart Hospital is tremendously successful, with national recognition and looked to as a destination for excellent heart care both locally and regionally,” Gibbs said. “I’m proud to join this team. I feel closely aligned to the Avera mission that views health care as a Christian ministry, and I look forward to an exciting future.”

The Avera Heart Hospital, which opened in 2001, is the region’s first hospital dedicated solely to the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. The hospital employs 540 people, and offers 53 critical-care beds plus state-of-the-art surgical suites, catheterization labs and all related ancillary services, in addition to an emergency room staffed by physicians 24/7.

The Avera Heart Hospital garners high customer satisfaction ratings, with more than 91 percent of patients surveyed saying they would recommend it. It holds a five-star rating in quality and patient satisfaction from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The Avera Heart Hospital is owned by Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center and the physicians of North Central Heart.

Gibbs succeeds Jon Soderholm, who served as CEO of the Avera Heart Hospital from its beginnings in 1999.

“After a thorough national search for qualified candidates, we are confident of our choice in Mick Gibbs,” said Dave Kapaska, DO, Regional President and CEO of Avera McKennan. “Having a strong history of visionary leadership, he brings expertise and experience to this role, as well as strong communication skills and a spirit of collaboration. We’re thrilled to welcome him to Avera.”