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## New Pittsboro facility will employ 50

### *Officials laud project's economic impact*

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PITTSBORO – Government and economic officials are hailing the economic impact of Piedmont Health SeniorCare of Pittsboro, a new program for which a facility is under construction at 163 Chatham Business Drive. The program will generate 50 new jobs for the community.

Piedmont Health SeniorCare at Pittsboro will be a Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), which are growing in popularity in North Carolina and across the nation. PACE programs allow those who are 55 and older and meet eligibility requirements to receive various services from a team of professionals at home and at the PACE facility. The program allows seniors to live at home as they age rather than moving to a nursing home, where they may have less independence and where care can be more expensive.

The jobs help advance and solidify recent economic gains for the area, according to Dianne Reid, President of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation. Reid noted that the county's unemployment rate dropped from 7.5 percent in January of 2013 to 6.8 percent in February of 2013. But 55 percent of county residents commute to jobs outside the county, Reid said.

"Having more jobs within the county is definitely a priority for us," she said.

Pittsboro Mayor Randolph Voller added: "The town is pleased that Piedmont Health is creating 50 new local jobs." Noting that the town worked with Piedmont Health during the approval process for the facility's construction, Mayor Voller said the new facility plays to the town's strengths.

"Our town was recently selected by the North Carolina Commerce Department as a certified retirement community," he said, "The services that will be provided by the PACE program will be a great fit for the town and county and address a critical need for seniors in our greater community."

Rep. David Price, who represents Pittsboro in the United States Congress, called the new jobs "welcome news." He added: "I commend Piedmont Health for their impressive PACE program and their caregivers' commitment to meeting the

unique needs of each patient. ... Ensuring all of our people have access to quality, affordable health care is vitally important work.”

Pending licensure and certification, Piedmont Health SeniorCare of Pittsboro should begin accepting patients in September of 2013.

The program will initially open with a 16-person staff, according to Marianne Ratcliffe, Executive Director of Piedmont Health’s SeniorCare program, which also includes a facility in Burlington. The staff in Pittsboro will grow as the patient-load grows, she said. At capacity, which may take as much as three years, it will have 50 employees, she said.

The types of jobs that will be added include pharmacists, physicians, nurses, homecare coordinators, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, recreational therapists, environmental services (janitors), personal care aids, drivers, social workers, activity coordinators and dieticians, Ratcliffe said. “We will increase the staff based on the ratios projected for each job description,” she explained.

Ratcliffe encouraged anyone interested in employment at the facility to visit Piedmont Health SeniorCare’s web site, [www.piedmonthealthseniorcare.org](http://www.piedmonthealthseniorcare.org) (click on “careers.”)

*For more information about Piedmont Health SeniorCare, call 336-532-0000 or visit [www.piedmonthealth.org](http://www.piedmonthealth.org).*