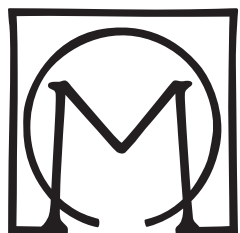


PRESS RELEASE



MIDWEST
ORTHOPÆDIC
CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midwest Orthopaedic makes two big hires

October 23, 2006

on November 27th, 2006
6000 N. Allen Road
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PEORIA, IL - It's an exciting time for the healthcare industry in the Peoria area. With growth and expansion in the air, Midwest Orthopaedic Center is bringing new personnel into its organization. By hiring of a new Operations Director and a new Marketing Manager, the company is focusing its efforts toward the future. The Marketing position was filled in September by Monique Weaver and the Operations position was filled by Derek Armstrong in October.

Jeffrey W. Akeson, M.D.

David E. Conner, M.D.

Nirain A. D'Souza, M.D.

Michael J. Gibbons, M.D.

Brent C. Johnson, M.D.

Richard A. Kube II, M.D.

Brett R. Levine, M.D.

John D. Mahoney, M.D.

Michael S. Merkley, M.D.

Thomas J. Mulvey, M.D.

Edward A. Smith, M.D.

James R. Williams, M.D.

Marc A. Zussman, M.D.

Derek Armstrong has been working in the field of healthcare administration for the past 3½ years. He came from the Methodist Medical Group Service Line. Derek plans to apply his ability to identify and implement improvements for better patient care. Derek said, "Running a successful medical practice has many challenges. Foremost is never losing site of the most important elements — the patient and their experience." A member of the Peoria community for 18 years, Derek and his family are proud of his new position with Midwest Orthopaedic Center.

For nearly 7 years, Monique Weaver has been working in marketing and advertising. A graduate from Eastern Illinois University, Monique is excited about moving into the healthcare field. "Healthcare is such a focus in the Peoria Area. I'm looking forward to communicating the benefits Midwest offers to the public." Previously, Monique worked for Jim Maloof / Realtor. The Marketing Manager position is a new one at Midwest Orthopaedic Center.

"We've made the decision to hire Derek and Monique based on current need and desire to grow," said Dr. Gibbons, President. "It is crucial that we are pro-active in growing our business. Serving all three hospitals is a tall order. We're looking forward to filling that need with gusto." Midwest's goal was to fill both positions with personnel who would be able to keep unparalleled patient service at the forefront.

Midwest Orthopaedic Center offers more specialties than any other orthopaedics group and has a new building located at 6000 N. Allen Road. They will begin seeing patients at that location as of November 27, 2006. Midwest Orthopaedic Center is proud to serve the Peoria Community at all its fine hospitals.