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**Jessica O’Neal, M.S., FACHE Named Chief Operating Officer  
at West Florida Healthcare**



April 13, 2016 (Pensacola, FL) – West Florida Healthcare has announced the appointment of **Jessica O’Neal, M.S., FACHE** to the position of Chief Operating Officer. In her new role, O’Neal will oversee the functions of several hospital service lines, including Surgical Services, Cardiology, Diagnostic Imaging, and Laboratory. In addition, O’Neal will serve as a key member of the hospital’s leadership team and will help provide direction for patient satisfaction and quality initiatives.

O’Neal earned her undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Dietetics at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, and her master’s degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She then began her career in health care at Methodist Health System in Dallas, Texas, where she completed an administrative fellowship. Since then, she served in several integral roles over a 12-year period at the multi-hospital system. During the past five years, O’Neal served as Chief Operating Officer/Vice President of Operations for Methodist Dallas Medical Center. In that role, she had direct line responsibility for overall operations of the 585-bed, Level I Trauma Center that is the main teaching and referral center for Methodist Health System. She also served as the administrative team lead for the \$122 million Charles A. Sammons Trauma and Critical Care Tower expansion project which opened in 2014. The new tower includes a 58-bed emergency department, 8 surgical suites and 70 new critical care rooms. In addition, O’Neal served as the administrative lead for planning and development of the Methodist Brain and Spine Institute and the Methodist Dallas

Digestive Institute that includes centers of excellence for pancreas, liver, metabolic system, esophageal, inflammatory bowel disease, and Interventional Endoscopy.

(more)

“Our physicians and staff look forward to welcoming Jessica in her new role at West Florida Healthcare,” said Brian Baumgardner, President and CEO of West Florida Healthcare. “She brings a wealth of operational experience as well as a passion for patient satisfaction and quality that will serve our hospital and community well.”

O’Neal has been active in the American Cancer Society as a board member and the Junior League of Dallas and was named “Young Healthcare Executive of the Year” for 2013 by the Dallas/Ft. Worth Hospital Council. She was also named a member of the “40 Under 40” class of 2011 by the *Dallas Business Journal*.

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