



Commencement 2009 – Dr. Dorsey (center)

Welcome from the Dean and Provost

As you take the next step of your journey toward becoming a physician, I applaud your decision to consider Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Founded in 1970, we have graduated more than 2,200 physicians as part of our mission to improve the health of central and southern Illinois. In addition to medical educational programs, we provide direct care to more than 117,000 patients and conduct research on those conditions that affect a rural population disproportionately, such as Alzheimer's disease and certain cancers.

We are in existence to serve our communities and we are looking for Illinois' best to join us. Each year we select a diverse group of students who mirror the population we serve. They come from all over the state of Illinois, but are united in their desire to learn, their care for patients as individuals, and their willingness to serve.

The faculty here has been selected to join us as well. From the beginning, the founders of this school set about to innovate and excel in educating medical students. Because the faculty value student learning, they have always been willing to try new approaches. Not only has this led to international recognition of our leadership in medical education, but it also results in the production of physicians who can solve patient problems rather than memorize unconnected facts.

Our self-directed problem-based curriculum is probably something new to you and represents a change from the usual undergraduate learning style. The curriculum requires a leap of faith but the results are worth it. Our students significantly out perform their peers on national standardized tests, are sought after for competitive residencies and become chief residents — the leaders among their peers.

I believe the reason our graduates distinguish themselves as residents can be traced back to our admissions process and our educational system. We strive to produce what your family members would call "good doctors." These are the ones who have knowledge and skill but who also demonstrate that they care about their patients by putting the patients' needs first.

If this sounds like you, join us as we learn, care and serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kevin Dorsey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J" and "D".

J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Provost