Tolan to lead ETSU Community Health Centers

JOHNSON CITY – The East Tennessee State University College of Nursing has announced that Silas Tolan has been hired as executive director of the Community Health Centers, which includes the Johnson City Community Health Center (JCCHC).

The JCCHC is a nurse-managed clinic, located just off State of Franklin Road. ETSU faculty and staff at the clinic provide health care to many underserved and at-risk groups. Tolan will also oversee the Hancock County School-Based Health Centers, the Keystone Partners in Health Clinic and the Day Center, which serves the homeless.

Tolan, of Johnson City, earned a bachelor of science degree in public health from ETSU in 2008 and completed his master of public health degree there in 2013. Since 2013, he has served as outreach and enrollment director for the ETSU College of Nursing’s Office of Practice. He has also held positions as research assistant for the ETSU College of Public Health and as a certified nursing assistant for Mountain States Health Alliance.

As an ETSU undergraduate, Tolan completed a field experience with World Hope International in Sierra Leone, where he worked on projects involving maternal and child health, community sustainability and income generation. He started a project to introduce low-cost, low-tech water filters as a means to provide clean water to rural villages.

The JCCHC clinic will soon celebrate its 25-year anniversary, having begun as the Johnson City Downtown Clinic, a one-room operation at the Salvation Army in Johnson City that provided health care to the homeless.

The center offers numerous services, including primary care, prenatal care, women’s health, mental health counseling, health education, diagnostic testing, nutritional counseling, medication assistance, audiology and speech-language pathology, diabetes management and education, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, social work, psychological services and radiology.

“The Johnson City Community Health Center helps meet the rising demand for better access to health care for the working poor, the uninsured and underinsured and for our expanding migrant population,” said Dr. Wendy Nehring, ETSU’s dean of Nursing. “Silas has the perfect background to oversee the valuable and evolving work of this center and our other practice sites.”

The center is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday. For more information, call 423-926-2500.

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